Queen visits SOS Children's Village

Nour stresses importance of fulfilling youth needs

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — "I hope that this project will symbolize what I think is most important for Jordan today, that we never forget, no matter what problems we face, that if we care for one another, if we work together, if we have faith, that the best possible work we can do and the most we can hope to contribute, is to lay a firmer, more secure foundation for future generations. If we do not see the fruits of our efforts today, the future generations will do so because we have laid this type of a foundation," said Her Majesty Queen Nour, during a visit to the SOS Children's Village Project at Tabarbur yesterday.

The project, which is located in the Tareq municipality north east of Amman, better known as Tabarbur, will house some 100 abandoned children into 11 substitute families. The project covering an area of 3,400 square metres, has a contract value of JD 650,000 for the construction of 11 houses, a kindergarten centre, an administration building as well as houses that will accommodate trainee substitute mothers and aunts. The project is expected to be completed by 1986.

This village will not differ into function from the some 200 SOS Children's Villages scattered worldwide which aim at providing abandoned children with a substitute family. The financing of such villages comes from charity.

A branch of the 35-year-old SOS Children's Village was established in Amman early 1983, with Her Majesty Queen Nour as its Honorary President. Her Majesty laid the cornerstone of this project in mid-October, 1984 and since then the construction has brought up the skeletons of the buildings.

Her Majesty visited the project site after planting a tree in the Queen Nour Public Park located nearby, where a total of 1,000 saplings were planted by the town's residents. Talking to The Star, Her Majesty said that she is hopeful of this project, and is keen on seeing its future results as it is the first of its kind in Jordan. "It is not only, and very importantly, destined to care for children who have been deprived of their parents, by giving them the right kind of care — the special care that every child is entitled to, the loving, supportive and individual care of a family, but also to ensure that they will never have to have been handicapped or to suffer in any way the adversity that has effected them from early childhood which is the loss of their parents," she said.

"We hope that each child who will have lived in this project will become a strong, healthy, motivated and creative builder of future Jordan. I hope that we will have given each one the faith to try, the hope for a better future, the sense of compassion for their fellow men along with a fundamental sense of justice that they in turn, Godwilling, will want to express their efforts in the future," Queen Nour said.

Referring to the importance of this year, the International Year of the Youth, Her Majesty said that if such qualities and their importance can be instilled in children, these children, would be able to contribute much more to the future of Jordan.

"If we are able, through projects that are better studied as well as understanding the youth by asking them what they need, want and hope for, and, at the same time make it clear what Jordan needs for the future, we will be able to face our problems, and we will be victorious in the end," Her Majesty concluded.

Queen Nour — planting a sapling in the Queen Nour Public park, Tabarbur

Exxon joins price-cutting

NEW YORK (AP) — Exxon Corp., the world's largest oil company, has joined the latest round of American oil industry price-cutting, announcing Wednesday it has reduced the price it will pay for the top grade of oil in the United States by one dollar a barrel to 28 dollars.

Exxon, citing competitive market conditions, announced the price cut a day after No. 2 Mobil Corp. undercut other industry giants by lowering the price it will pay for the domestic benchmark blend, West Texas intermediate, by 1.25 dollars, to 27.50 dollars a barrel.

Among major US oil companies, only Atlantic Richfield Co. and Shell Oil Co. are still holding at 29 dollars a barrel, while some smaller companies have dropped West Texas intermediate as low as 25.90 dollars.

As recently as October, the oil industry was united behind a price of 30 dollars a barrel for West Texas intermediate.

On the New York mercantile exchange, West Texas intermediate for February delivery fell 21 cents Tuesday to 25.91 dollars a barrel. But that still was above the five-year low of 25.18 dollars set on Jan. 4.

US naval chief in Gulf for high-level contacts

MANAMA (AP) — The US Chief of Naval Operations, was described as a continuation of high-level military cooperation contacts between the United States and Arab countries threatened by offshoots of the Iraq-Iran war.

Fresh from a visit to Oman where he held talks with Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence Affairs Fahr Bin Timur, Watkins met here Wednesday with the ruler of Bahrain, Sheik Isa Bin Salmwn Al Khalifa.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Sheik Mohamed Bin Mubarak and Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Brig. Khalifa Bin Ahmed.

Western diplomatic sources said that Watkins discussions with Sheik Isa dealt largely with the situation in the Gulf, scene of a protracted war between Iraq and Iran.

The visit was described as a routine attempt to keep high-level contacts going between the US and the oil-rich Arab countries of the Gulf region.

These Arab countries have been deeply concerned over the spillovers from the Iraq- Iran war, mainly the so-called tanker war which brought the 51-month-old conflict closer to the doorsteps of the neutral Arab countries.

Iraq has been raiding commercial vessels in the northern sector of the Gulf, in a declared attempt to undermine Iran's economy by blocking its oil exports. The Iranians have been retaliating with similar air raids on Arab and other oil tankers in neutral waters south of the war zone.

Iran has repeatedly threatened to block Gulf oil exports by closing the stratogic strait of Hormuz, the Gulf waterways southern outlet to the Indian ocean.

Bahrain and other Gulf powers have declared that defence of their own hinterlands was their own responsibility, while defence of the Hormuz was the responsibility of the world powers that benefit from the oil navigation through it.

No details were immediately available on the visit by Adm. Watkins, who was to spend two days of talks here with Bahrain officials.

Iran suicide squads to attack Mideast, France

LONDON (AP) — Iran has set up a special military unit to recruit and train suicide squads to carry out terrorist operations in countries opposed to Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic republic, the London Times reported Wednesday.

It said documents obtained by an Iranian opposition movement and supplied to the paper name Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and France as prime targets of the unit.

It said the unit is called the Independent Brigade of Irregular Warfare in Enemy territories and that a leading figure behind its creation is stated to be Husain Musawi, leader of the Islamic Jihad (Muslim holy war) organization.

The paper said the organization has claimed responsibility for suicide attacks in the past three years on United States and French establishments in Beirut and Kuwait.

According to the documents, the secondment is being requested of specialized military instructors who should be under 30 years old, preferably bachelors and who must be completely committed to martyrdom, the "Times" reported.

It said one of the two documents was an invitation dated 19 May 1984, from the Minister of Islamic Guidance, Ayatollah Muhammad Khatami, to 12 ministers, military commanders, heads of department and Ayatollah Baqer Hakim to attend a meeting at Khatami's office. It identified Hakim as a pro-Iranian-Iraqi and a Shi'ite Muslim clergyman who leads the self-styled supreme assembly of the Islamic revolution of Iraq in Iran.

The 'Times' said the second document purports to be minutes of the meeting, though it only records the introductory speeches of the Ayatollah (Khatami) and a mysterious figure referred to by the code name of Mirhashem.

The paper said TQ documents were acquired by the national movement of the Iranian resistance led by former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar. It quoted a spokesman for the London office of the movement as saying Mirhashem is Musawi.

The 'Times' said Musawi is Iranian by upbringing and nationality but for some time has been based on northern Lebanon.

Bakhtiar, now living in exile in Paris, was the last premier appointed by the late Shah of Iran before the monarch was overthrown in 1979 in the revolution that brought Khomeini to power.

The 'Times' said that according to the documents, Khatami said the unit was to be built around a nucleus of a few groups of 10 to 20 people each who are currently serving in Lebanon.

It said the documents stated that Mirhashem requested that specialised instructors from the Iranian armed forces should be seconded to his organization and that between 1,500 and 2,000 men under 30 should be recruited.

weekly

The Jerusalem Star

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Lebanon demands timetable

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel's administration launched a new effort Wednesday to restore law and order in Beirut and to prepare to take over territory Israel plans to evacuate in South Lebanon.

Government troops were ordered to complete the dismantling of militia fortifications on the Green Line between Beirut's Muslim and Christian sectors. They also were ordered to increase patrols in the main business districts of the capital.

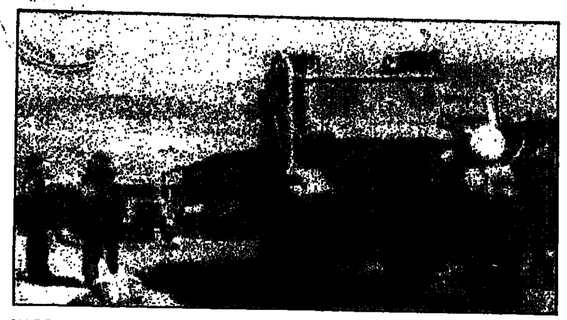
The nation's largest Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia said it has ordered its men to close down all their offices in West Beirut, clear the streets and provide any assistance needed to the army.

Other militias were expected to follow suit.

Similar orders in the past have worked for several days but have not succeeded in removing militiamen and other gunmen from the streets.

Amal's leader Nabih Berri serves as Justice Minister and State Minister for South Lebanon in Prime Minister Rashid Karami's national coalition cabinet, which groups Lebanon's principal warlords.

Lebanon on Wednesday renewed its demand that Israel provide a timetable for the withdrawal from South Lebanon.



NAQOURA, Lebanon — Israeli trucks pulling out of South Lebanon on their way back to their bases in Israel. Meanwhile talks between Israel and Lebanon at Naqoura continued. (AP photo)

Prime Minister Rashid Karami made the demand following a six-hour cabinet session on the eve of the 14th round of United Nations-sponsored negotiations between the two sides.

"Our demand remains for a detailed, clear timetable," said the prime minister.

The controversy over a future role for UNIFIL, which is the UN interim force in Lebanon, was behind a two-week suspension of the Lebanese Israeli military negotiations.

Karami said an outline for Israel's planned withdrawal presented by Israeli negotiators at Tuesday's session was insufficient.

The Israelis have said that the first phase of a three-step pullback will be completed by February 18. But they have declined to specify the date of the second withdrawal.

inside

The virtues of the bomb

—see center pages

Not only in China — WorldPaper topic for this month. After page 12.

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Smuggling of Iranian antiques stopped

NICOSIA (AP) — Millions of dollars worth of silk carpets, ancient manuscripts and other artifacts being smuggled out of Iran to foreign museums were seized by the authorities, the official Iranian News Agency, Irna, reported Wednesday.

The agency said the valuable collection was being smuggled out of the port of Iranshahr on the sea of Oman in southeast Iran.

It consisted of 400 silk carpets, hand-woven cashemeres, ceramics, bronze works and two ancient copies of the Quran, inscribed in gold lettering on deer parchment, as well as a considerable amount of gold jewellery, Irna said.

All the objects are of special artistic value and the smugglers intended to sell them to foreign museums and collectors. Experts have been unable to decide on the monetary value of this unique collection, Irna added.

Haifa court sentences car-bomb group

TEL AVIV (AP) — A district court judge sentenced five Arabs and a Lebanese to prison terms ranging from life to nine years Wednesday for "Conspiracy to blow up" Israel's largest office building, Israel radio reported.

The group planned to smuggle a car loaded with explosives into Israel from Lebanon in August 1983 and set it off in the parking lot beneath the Shalom Tower, police have said.

The Haifa judge gave a life sentence to Farid Abdel Kalek, a Lebanese member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

General Command said to be the leader of the group, the radio said.

The court sentenced Kweikash Kweikash to 15 years, the radio said. Ahmed Kayal and Farid Akawi were sentenced to 10 years each, and Saleh Kweikash was sentenced to nine years.

Salah Salman Kweikash, named as the leader of the Israeli — Druse members of the group, was sent for psychiatric observation, the radio said.

The five Arabs residing in 1948 — occupied Palestine, are all Druse from northern Israeli villages. The Israeli Druse are generally considered loyal to Israel, serving in the army and border police.

The weekly magazine Koteret Rashit reorted on Wednesday that the group started forming at the end of 1982, when a Lebanese active in the PFLP-GC, Issam Faur, travelled to Israel to recruit Arabs for the organization.

The anti-establishment magazine said Faur first recruited Salah Salman Kweikash, 28, who had been released from his service in the Israeli Army because of mental health problems and then studied at the Hebrew University of Occupied Jerusalem.

Egyptian leftists denounce hanging of Muslim leader

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's leftist opposition party has denounced Sudan's execution of a Muslim leader as a violation of human rights, the party newspaper said Wednesday.

The weekly newspaper Al-Ahaly, published by the Nationalist Progressive Unionist Party, said a statement by the party secretariat condemned last Friday's hanging of 76-year-old Mahmoud Mohamed Taha in Khartoum as "a heinous crime committed by the regime of (President Ga'afar) Nimeiri."

"This crime concerns every Muslim generally and every Egyptian in particular," the statement said, referring to special ties between Egypt and Sudan, including a 1976 joint defence pact and a 1982 economic and social integration charter.

"All nationalist forces and citizens should declare their condemnation of this crime which violates the most elementary human rights and the most sacred and civilized Arab values," the statement said.

The United States and Amnesty International, a London-based human rights' organization, have deplored Taha's hanging.

Taha, leader of the outlawed Republican Brothers Party, was convicted by a criminal court of heresy and distributing leaflets opposing the way in which Muslim law has been implemented in Sudan since Nimeiri decreed it in September 1983.

There have been 55 limb amputations in punishment for theft and many public floggings of people convicted of drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages since the law took effect.

Taha's group opposed strict application of Muslim law, arguing the message of the Prophet Mohamed should be updated to meet modern social conditions.

Four co-defendants sentenced to death along with Taha were given the choice of renouncing their beliefs or going to the gallows. They recanted publicly and their lives were spared.

Mahmoud Mohamed Taha

Al-Ahaly said that in a further protest, leading party member Dr. Milad Ganna has resigned his membership of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese parliament formed under the integration charter.

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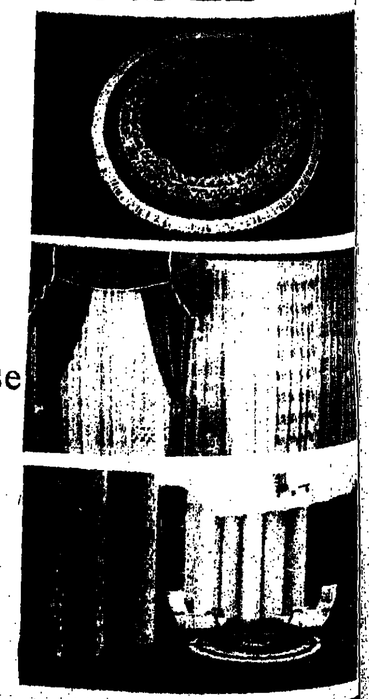

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who is now honorary chairwoman of the General Federation of Jordanian Women discusses Nairobi preparations with federation representatives

Jordanian women prepare for Nairobi Conference week

AMMAN (Star) — The General Federation of Jordanian Women is now preparing to take part in the three-week Nairobi, Kenya, Conference marking the culmination of the United Nations Decade for Women. The conference is due to run from 8-17 July.

So far, the federation has set up several preparatory committees covering expected conference attendants as well as pinpointing the topics they will discuss through work papers.

The first part of the conference is dedicated for the representatives of non-governmental organizations. A daily average of 200 workshops are expected to be carried out to discuss almost all aspects concerning women. Among these are women's role in increasing family income, their place in policy and decision making and the future challenges for women in fields of development.

The second part of the conference will gather exclusively official representatives of UN member governments. An official delegation from the Ministry of Social Development represent Jordan in this conference.

Conference discussions will concentrate on two main items, the pinpointing of obstacles governments have faced during the UN Decade for Women and proposals for an overall strategy for the year 2000. A working paper on the situation of women in the Occupied Territories will be presented during the session.

The federation is now discussing possible topics to be tackled during the Nairobi Conference, covering women and their place in the fields of health, education, jobs and professions, agriculture, the mass media and voluntary work. Also on the list are women in the Islamic Law, the effects of rural to urban migration, women of the Occupied Territories as well as aging and young women and children.

Municipality puts its tenders in order

AMMAN (Star) — The Amman Municipality has adopted a new plan for the issuing and awarding of tenders for 1985 and the years to follow according to Mr Sultan Khleifat, Amman Municipality Under-Secretary.

Mr Khleifat told The Star that the Municipality's old system of issuing tenders was somewhat awkward because they were issued individually and spread out over the year, without any proper studies or plans. This tended to create delay and in the long run, lessen the level of construction efficiency.

The new system involves thorough planning as tenders will be classified according to the type of work and will be issued in lots during the beginning of every year, whether construction is required early in the year or not. This will require precise studies so that tenders are well timed and co-ordinated and follow a time sequence between one tender and the next.

Mr Khleifat says this should enable contractors to know well before hand what tenders are to be offered for the year and will give them the opportunity to make their tender offers more systematically. Under the old system, contractors have tended to apply for any tender that was issued.

This year the Amman Municipality has already issued a set of tenders for a total value of JD 2.5 million, out of the JD 6 million worth of contracts planned by the Municipality for this year. They cover asphalt mixes, and pavement and wall constructions. Another batch of tenders is due to take place soon.

Official visit begins 3 February

AMMAN (Star) — The President of the German Federal Republic Dr Richard von Weizsacker will begin an official visit to Jordan on 3 February. It is Dr von Weizsacker's second visit outside the Federal Republic of Germany since he took office in mid 1984.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Baroness Marianne von Weizsacker, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his wife, and a delegation of senior Federal German officials. Some 25 reporters and journalists from the German mass media are expected to cover the stay.

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Are Azraq's springs under threat?

Conservationists urge caution on pumping

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — "We are worried about the water being pumped out from the Azraq wells and springs. Recently, overpumping has taken place, especially from the springs, which drying up the area. With a pumping peak of 1,600 and even 2,000 cubic metres per hour in some cases, the average water level has been brought down and the wetlands are gradually drying up," says Mr Anis Mu'asher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

The water of Azraq is an issue RSCN is concerned about as the springs, wells and wetlands are apparently affected because of overpumping by the Water Authority. "We hope that something will be done soon to preserve the area," says Mr Mu'asher.

Talking to The Star, Mr Mu'asher said that if excessive pumping continues, the Azraq underground basin will change its present structure and become too salty. The same thing has already taken place in Wadi Dulieil, 45 kilometres from Amman north of Zarqa. There excessive pumping in the past has entirely changed the balance of the area's underground springs, and for the last couple of years saline water has replaced fresh drinking water.

The RSCN is not entirely against the idea of utilizing the Azraq waters. "What we are calling for is that pumping should be within safe quantities that would enable nature to maintain a balance, otherwise, we will be destroying our, Mr Mu'asher explained, resources in a selfish and unethical manner."

Linked with the preservation of the natural resources of the area is the well-being of wildlife. Jordan has recently signed an international convention by which it agrees to preserve and protect the Azraq oasis, marshes and wetlands and consider them as an international wetland to which hundreds of bird species migrate during the winter seasons. "Jordan should respect its promises and commitments to others," Mr Mu'asher said.

Another commitment Jordan has made is to the international strategy prepared by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Jordan was among the first countries to adopt this strategy in 1980. According to the agreement, Jordan should embark on setting its own nature preservation policies to suit the environment, using the IUCN strategy as a guideline.

In contrast to the RSCN view the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) believes there is no real drop in the average water level in wells, and it says that well pumpings are now less than the annual recharge. The authority refused to comment on RSCN's claims that the average annual water level is dropping. It has said, however, that its current pumpings from the four main Azraq springs will be brought to a complete and definite stop before the summer of 1985, for the springs "recreational purposes."

Talking to The Star, WAJ President Mohammad Saleh Kilani said that the water pumped from Azraq springs is used to supply the eastern villages surrounding Zarqa. Once pumping is brought to a stop to give the springs a rest, Aqeb will be the next area where water will be channelled to the desert villages.

The Azraq oasis, which is devided into two areas, South and North Azraq, has five main springs with a 9,000 square metre area. Although the level of its waters was not affected when, in the early sixties, the government began to pump water to the north of Jordan from the area's Druze pools, it was seriously affected when, in the late seventies and early eighties, further pumping was extended to Amman. This led to the drying up of large ponds, small lakes and vast marshlands.

The balance must be maintained

The area's major water supply comes from the Jebel Druze from which fresh water annually finds its way through basalt rock channels to the oasis. This is followed by waters coming from Iraq and Jordan, together with an average annual rainfall of 52.3 millimetres.

Various reports on the Azraq aquifers recharge show different figures. One report has it that with the Azraq 12,800 square metre rain catchment area and with an average of 84 millimetre rainfall, the aquifers recharge reaches 19.4 million cubic metre per annum. Another report sets the figure as high as 30 million cubic metres per annum.

A third report has it that about 14.2 million cubic metres of water flows into the surrounding marshlands annually from the springs.

Although the WAJ refuses to confirm the figure, it is commonly believed that some 1,000 cubic metres of water is pumped up every hour — making it 24,000 cubic metres per day, and 8,400,000 cubic metres of water per annum. When the pumping peak is up to 16 00 cubic metre per hour, bringing the amount of water pumped up annually to 13,440,000 cubic metres.

All this leads to the point that Azraq is in real danger of either drying up completely or changing its ecology by bringing up saline water.

A third factor, perhaps, should be taken into consideration. Author Brian Nelson explains in his book on the Azraq area that the marshlands tend to maintain an independent water supply from the springs. During certain periods of the year, Nelson says, the water level in the wetland rises while in the nearby springs it becomes less so.

He stresses one major point — that it would be a great mistake to pump out the waters of Azraq without first studying and understanding the unique character of the underground water network of Azraq.

Society makes room for the animals and birds

Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Eastablished in 1983, the Aqaba Regional Planning Authority now oversees virtually all activities taking place within Aqaba. But when it comes to the problem of keeping Aqaba land and water clean, the ARA has the helping hand of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

One of the RSCN's major activities down south is to patrol the waters with the sole boat to make sure that there is no pollution of the waters, especially by ships. Some 100 cases have already been sent to court, with fines reaching JD 10,000, as there is a law against water litter-bugs.

A car patrol is now working to see that people keep the shores clean. But the RSCN can do only so much as there is, as yet no law against littering the shore. The some 50 rubbish bins placed 100 metres apart along the seven-kilometre stretch of picnic sites are the work of the society, and the projected Botanic Gardens soon to be set in Aqaba within the Prince Hamzeh Park, is another RSCN brainchild.

The RSCN, a voluntary body that aims at protecting wildlife and habitat, dates back to 1966. Since its establishment, the society has been backed up by the Agriculture Ministry which has delegated its authority to enforce conservation laws to the RSCN.

The estistablishment of the RSCN was well-timed, as it was only during the previous year that a Royal Decree was issued by His Majesty King Hussein which called for a national nature conservation programme in Jordan. Several foreign expert missions recommended the creation of the Azraq Desert National Park.

The Azraq park was the first National park to be set up in Jordan, and, although it came about under a royal decree, the park has yet to be established by law.

Reserves

Meanwhile, the society has been working up on a wildlife reserves programme to determine Jordan's need for natural reserves. The study suggested out 12 possible natural reserves covering the various regions and climates of Jordan which will suit the various species of Jordanian wildlife. Two of these reserves are already established: The Shoumari Wildlife Reserve and the Azraq Wetland Wildlife Reserve.

The proposed reserves are the 950 square kilometre Burqu Wildlife Reserve in the Jordanian north estern desert, the 860 square kilometre Rajil Wildlife Reserve north east of Azraq, the 410 square kilometre Abu Rukbah Wildlife Reserve south west of Azraq, the 440 square kilometre Bayir Wildlife Reserve bordering the Dead Sea, the 100 square kilometre Dana Wildlife Reserve east of Kerak, the 40square kilometre Jarba Wildlife Reserve in the desert area near Saudi Arabia, the 460 square kilometre Jebel Masadi Wildlife Reserve south of the Dead Sea, the 510 square kilometre Ram Wildlife Reserve in Wadi Araba.

The 31 square kilometre Zubia Wildlife Reserve south of Irbid and the 220 square kilometre Mujib Wildlife Reserve east of Azraq are next in line to be established.

The 22 square kilometre Shaumari Wildlife Reserve, located 12 kilometres south of the Azraq Oasis, is Jordan's first wildlife reserve. Once the RSCN established this reserve in 1975, it had the whole area fenced and began to re-introduce species of animals that were no longer found in Jordan.

In 1978, four male Arabian Oryx were sent to the Shaumari Reserve from the Arabian Oryx World Herd Trustees to be later on followed by four female oryx. Today, some 38 oryx are breeding successfully in the wild at the reserve, along with four Blue-Necked Ostriches, a pair of Syrian Onagers and 16 Mountain and Dorcas Gazelles.

The wildlife of Azraq area once used to include gazelles, ostriches, onagers, and cheetahs. The wildlife found there at the present include the Common Red Wolf, the Striped Hyena, wild cats, hares, Wagner's Girbils, Libyan Jirds as well as Fat Girds, though many of these animals are threatened with extinction.

Numerous species of birds have been recorded at Shaumari and Azraq, most of which are migrants passing between Eastern Africa and Eurasia.

The endangered species breeding programme at this reserve include besides those now found in the reserve, species such as Goitered Gazelles and Wild asses.

The 12 square kilometre Azraq Wetland Wildlife Reserve has gathered species associated with wetlands and marshes, such as jackals and red foxe and all kinds of small reptiles.

Besides its work in establishing wildlife reserves and carrying out programmes for the re-introduction of animal species that have become extint in Jordan, RSCN has another important facet which is promotion of information about conservation. The RSCN has a department that works to pubish quarterly magazines and also prepares information programmes to assist schools and other educational institutions.

In the past, the society welcomed only active membership, but now it has opened its doors for membership to those not necessarily active, to help in its work as a pressure group for all environmental problems. It is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and other international organizations dealing with conservation.

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Amman begins its move to the year 2000

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — In recent years the municipalities, towns and suburbs surrounding Amman have expanded to the point where they almost reach the city limits. In response to this the Amman Municipality is making plans to create a Greater Amman. The Greater Amman scheme is expected to be completed by the year 2006, after a 20 year span of project implementations.

An agreement for consultancy services for the preparations of the Greater Amman Masterplan project was signed on Thursday 17 January by the government and Dar Al-Handaseh.

In an interview with The Star, Amman Mayor Abdal Ra'ouf Rawabdeh said that Amman and its neighbouring towns have been suffering for several years from the lack of an overall development planning and public services network. He said this is mainly due to the overlapping jobs of too many administrative authorities in charge, working independently without an overall framework.

These authorities, include the Amman Municipality, the municipalities of all surrounding towns and the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs, which controls areas between the Amman city limits and other municipality boundaries. This multiplicity of authorities prevents the development of a well-co-ordinated overall development planning and public services system, Mr Rawabdeh said.

The new master plan will now be administered under the newly formed umbrella of the Amman Municipality which has taken upon itself the responsibility of setting up the 1986-2006 plans and administering their implementation.

The masterplan includes five basic areas — urban planning, transportation and traffic planning, infrastructure planning, administrative planning and other special planning studies.

Urban planning covers preparations in the fields of population and demography, employment and the economy, the determination of future land-use requirements and alternative development concepts.

Under the umbrella study of transportation and traffic planning comes the relationships between land-use and transport, alternative network systems, arterial road corridors, junctions, highways and intersections, and criteria for levels of service.

Infrastructure planning involves water supply, sewage collecting and treatment, stormwater drainage, electricity and street lighting, solid waste disposal, and the telecommunications networks.

Planning the overall administration includes items such as a clear definition of the Greater Amman boundaries, establishing a data bank and records system, as well as a cartography and special data base, planning standards, zoning regulations, and a legal and administration set up for the Greater Amman.

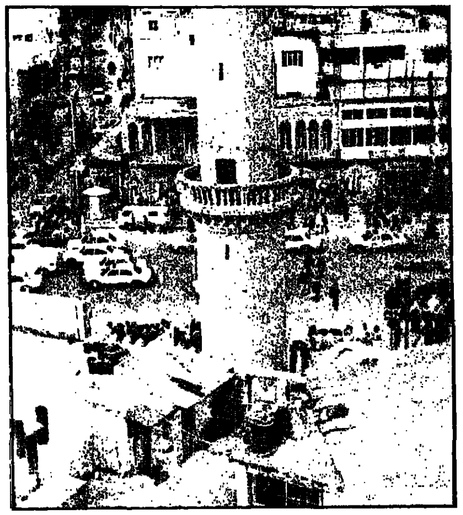
Special planning studies includes the five-year Investment Programme (1986-1990), the economic feasibility studies of these projects, municipal revenues and accounting procedures, urban design and landscaping, town centre action plans and development planning for blackspots, the under-privileged areas within the Greater Amman area.

Asked about the Greater Amman boundaries the Amman Municipality has in mind, Mr Rawabdeh said that so far plans are set for the city of Amman to incorporate 12 surrounding towns and municipalities which are Tareq, better known as Tabarbour, Jubeiha, Sweileh, Tala'Ali, Khilda and Umma Sammaq, Wadi Seer, Dabouq, Umma Quseer and Al Muqabilain, Quweismeh und Juweideh, Abu Alanda, and Salchiyat Al Abed.

"These are the areas we now have in mind, but the study might feel the need to include other areas so that Greater Amman will have distinguishable boundaries, whether natural, such as valleys or mountains, or man-made such as highways," Mr Rawabdeh said.

The expected population rate within Greater Amman once completed by the year 2006 will be defined after studies are carried out on demographic changes, the economic development and labour force requirements.

"Off hand, I can say that we will have to try our best to reduce the population increase in this area, and we hope that the population of Greater Amman then will not be above two million for the coming century," Mr Rawabdeh concluded.



The Master Plan will cover all aspects of city life

Housing co. looks to new market

AMMAN — The Refco company's reduction this week of the deposit rates for its houses from twenty five to ten per cent is likely to have an impact on deposit rates generally but companies in the housing field are generally being cautious in their response to the move.

Refco's 10 per cent deposit requirement is part of an overall package which Miss May Mua'sher of their marketing department says should make home buying easier for younger buyers. She told The Star that Refco's experience over the past five years has shown that most of their clients are in the 38 - 60 year age group.

In 1984 the company began building what they call studio apartments. These contain one, two or three bedrooms but are on a smaller scale than their usual apartments and are cheaper to buy. But they found that buyers still had problems closing the deposit gap.

The company now offers the lower deposit rate, the chance to save the deposit in installments and the possibility of buying a house or apartment fully furnished with the furniture repayments added to the house payments.

Refco now has 18 sites for housing with 178 units of different types. Their deposit reduction is a response to a flat market and to a wish to tap the market of young buyers who have sufficient income to manage monthly payments but cannot raise a deposit.

The company believes that the combination of a low deposit, variety of sites and the furniture option will help to boost sales.

Mr Mohammad Nur Kailani, administrative manager of Beit El-Mal Saving and Investment for Housing Co. (Beitna) which is one of Refco's major competitors, told The Star that his company is also considering the possibility of reducing its deposit requirements but that it was in no hurry to do this and was anxious to ensure that the move would not impose a strain on house buyers.

Under Central Bank regulations the maximum repayment period for a housing loan is 15 years so any increase in the amount of money to be repaid can only be absorbed through the monthly repayments.

Mr Kailani says that competition for house sales is keen at the present time but that his company is not anxious to encourage applications from potential buyers who cannot actually afford to buy. He believes that the company's emphasis on quality building and its approach to contracts based on Islamic principles, will guarantee it a healthy share of the market.

A spokesman for another of the larger housing companies, Darco, said that his company was not considering a change in its deposit requirements at this time.

New classification for engineers

By Pam Dougherty
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The growing sophistication of Jordan's engineering profession is reflected in a new set of by-laws governing the classification of engineering offices which were issued this month.

In an interview with The Star, Engineers Association President Ibrahim Abu Ayyas said that the old by-laws which were issued in 1970 were a reflection of the conditions of that time. Since then, the profession has expanded both numerically and in skills and experience and this needed to be taken into account in the structure of the profession.

Under the new laws engineering is divided into six categories — civil, mechanical, electrical, geological and mining, chemical and architectural. Each of these is then sub-divided into various specialities for e.g., civil engineering divides into highways, bridges and highrise buildings, structural, soil mechanics and special foundations, water, sewerage and environment, surveying, and mechanical engineering. The number of specialities varies with the different categories.

Under the new laws there are three basic categories of office — Consulting Engineering Office, Engineering Office and Engineers Office. Engineers have three months in which to register their offices in one of these categories and according to their chosen specialisations.

To register as a Consulting Civil Engineering Office with a specialisation in highways a firm will have to have an engineer with 11 years experience in the field and four years experience in design work in that field. The office must also have an engineer with over three years experience and an engineer with less than three years experience.

An Engineering Office registering for a particular specialisation must have an engineer with seven years experience and two years experience in design in that specialized field, together with another engineer with less than three years experience.

Offices will be able to register for more than one specialisation and adjustments will be made regarding the requirements for ancilliary engineers.

The classification of Engineers Office is reserved for small one and two-man firms.

The regulation requiring employment of engineers of less than three years experience is designed to create work opportunities for some of Jordan's excess new graduates in the engineering field.

The Engineers Association now also has the right to determine the size of engineering projects the three categories of office can handle, but, Mr Abu Ayyas says, that they will wait until registration procedures are completed until they deal with this matter.

He explained that the changes in classification concentrate on the institutional structure of the offices, reflecting their range of skills and experience rather than limiting themselves to the old system which simply registered the engineers years of experience in general.

Another fact with the new regulations is that also include regulations for the supervision of engineering projects. For buildings under 200 metres (usually average sized houses) there is no supervision requirement, for buildings of 200 - 400 square meters there should be partial supervision, that is periodic visits by the engineers and technicians. Buildings over 400 square metres are now required to have resident supervision.

The association is also considering regulations to extend supervision to other engineering projects such as water and roads, Mr Aby Ayyas says.

The new supervision regulations are particularly important for medium sized private projects which at present are often not adequately supervised.

He says at present the private sector does not in general appreciate that a good engineer can save them money rather than cost them money. The new by-laws should help in maintaining the standards of the profession and ensuring that the client receives the service for which he is paying.

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A readable guide to childhood ailments

By Joyce Niles
Special to The Star

COPING WITH sick children is surely one of the most trying aspects of motherhood. It is heartening, therefore, to see a Jordanian doctor publishing a basic handbook in accessable Arabic and with a common sense approach to the question as Dr Walid Awad has done with his new book 'Reflections on Paediatrics for Mothers'

Dr Walid Awad

REFLECTIONS ON PAEDIATRICS FOR MOTHERS, By Dr. Walid Awad, 285 pages in Arabic, printed by Shark Al Osat *Printing Co., price JD 1.500*

The seventy-five short essays in 'Reflections on paediatrics for Mothers' discuss topics ranging from the popular practice of cupping to relieve chest conditions to the handling of prescriptions. As the text is aimed at imparting information to the mother so that she may better cope with the job of raising her children, it is written, not in the classical, academic approach to medicine, *but rather in a lively,* conversational tone.

Dr. Walid Awad has purposely kept the discussion of each subject as succint as possible so that a busy mother will have the time to pick up the book and read through a chapter covering the specific problem she faces at the time without being bogged down with myriad details and medical minutae.

Yet he includes what the signs of a simple condition that can be treated at home would be, as op*posed to a situation that needs* the doctor's advice, coughing — is it the helpful cough of a brief cold, or a symptom of a foreign body lodged in the airways — a watermelon seed shell that the child breathed in while he was eating bizer, or could it be an indication of tuberculosis.

"I have written this book to spread knowledge to the public, especially the mothers, so that they will have an idea of what they can do for their child, how to recognise serious complaints, when to consult a doctor, and what to do before the doctor comes," Dr Awad told The Star.

He has also tackled the subject of popular folklore practices concerning health, sorting out which customs actually do have benefit and which are to be disregarded.

The book is a concise text without repetition, so that the reader will be encouraged to pick it up and read further. Dr Awad has incorporated anecdotes from his long years of practice in the region that give a light note to the book.

Dr Awad was born in Yaffa, took his matric examination in Nablus in 1958, then went to the American University of Beirut where he got his BSc in 1962. He received his MD from AUB in 1966 and went on to specialise in paediatrics at Baylor University in Houston, Texas, USA, in 1967.

Then he took his qualifying examination with the American Boards of Paediatrics in 1971. He spent some years in practice in Saudi Arabia and then returned here to Jordan where he has a private practice. Dr Awad is also on the Paediatric examining committee for the Jordan Board. This is his first book but he plans others in the future.

A practical guide to children's health

Animals before people

FACED WITH falling prices and fluctuating markets, even those Third World governments concerned by what is happening to the poor in their countries have to export even more, if they are not to be even more in debt.

Oxfam's former Field Director for coastal West Africa, Wyndham James, reports that Guinea-Bissau has seen no option but to ban the sale of peanuts locally, so that the absolute maximum can be exported.

But peanuts are a crucial source of protein locally at key times of the year, especially for children: their disappearance from markets is likely to have a serious impact on nutrition levels. And what happens to Guinea-Bissau's peanuts? Most of them come to Europe to feed our pigs and cows.

Fear of AIDS spreads in Africa

By Omar Sattaur

AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is now known to be prevalent in central Africa. The disease has the highest incidence in Zaire, and there are about 40 cases every year in Zambia.

Kenya and other countries surrounding the affected are appear to be free of the disease, although fears are increasing that it may spread to other parts of the African continent.

AIDS came to light in 1978 in the United States. Since that time it has killed more than 3,000 Americans and rather fewer Europeans.

The discovery of the virus that causes AIDS in May 1984 spurred scientists to look for the origin of the disease; the result is the central African link.

Two teams of scientists lay claim to the discovery of the AIDS virus; one led by Robert Gallo at the National Cancer Institute in Maryland, US and the other at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, led by Jean-Claude Cherman.

The Americans call the virus human T-cell leukaeia/lymphoma virus type III (HTLVIII) and the French call theirs lymphadenopathy associated virus (LAV). The two teams are more or less satisfied now that HTLVIII and LAV are the same organism.

French and Belgian scientists first noticed a similarity between AIDS and an illness in patients from Zaire who had emigrated to Europe.

A search for evidence of AIDS in central Africa has since revealed that the virus is indeed present in the blood of 12 to 20 per cent of Zairians.

Surveys carried out in 1983 in Kinshasa, Zaire, and in Kigali, Rwanda, identified 55 probable cases of AIDS. The incidence of the disease in these two countries was estimated at 17 and 80 per 100,000 population per year respectively.

Antibodies against the AIDS virus are found in five per cent of blood donors from Zaire and in high proportion of African sufferers of AIDS. (Antibodies are proteins made by the body's defence system. Their job is to destroy invading micro- organisms by binding to them and alerting scavenging cells *to pick up* the pieces.

Antibodies are made specifically against a particular foreign particle and so the presence of antibodies against HTLVIII means that the person was or is infected with AIDS).

Scientists are still looking for AIDS antibodies in blood samples from people in a number of countries in Africa in the hope of understanding how AIDS spreads and where the virus originated.

AIDS in Africa is a heterosexual disease, whereas in the United States and Europe sufferers are mainly homosexual men, intravenous drug abusers or haemophiliacs.

The commonest complication of AIDS outside of Africa is a cancer called Kaposi's sarcoma.

The suggestion that the AIDS virus originated in central Africa is strengthened by the fact that Kaposi's sarcoma is endemic in the same geographical area as that in which the incidence of AIDS is highest. But the story is not that simple.

Kaposi's sarcoma seems to come in two main forms: 'classical' Kaposi's and a newer form typified by the tumors found in Western AIDS patients.

Classical Kaposi's is not usually fatal. Tumors occur on the skin of the legs and arms and they frequently regress completely.

Kaposi's in Western AIDS patients, the 'atypical' Kaposi's, is a much more sinister and dangerous disease. Tumors occur in the mouth and gut lining, are much more resistant to treatment and spread readily to other parts of the body.

Robert Downing, a microbiologist at the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research at *Porton Down,* England, investigated 32 patients from Zambia with "classical" Kaposi's.

With the help of Robin Weiss at the Institute of Cancer Research in London, he found only three patients with antibodies against the AIDS virus. But of patients with 'atypical' Kaposi's, 91 per cent had antibodies against the AIDS virus.

Downing believes that AIDS as seen in the United States is a new disease in Zaire and Zambia. Scientists are now looking at old, *stored blood* samples from Zairian patients for the presence of HTLVIII.

If only a small number of these samples prove to contain the virus, then it is likely that the disease is recent in Zaire.

The most nagging question, and one which will prove difficult to answer, is why the virus causes such different diseases in Africans and Westerners.

Current thinking holds that HTLVIII moved into urban areas of central Africa in the mid-1970s, where poverty and prostitution aided its rapid spread or, alternatively, that it underwent some genetic change which made it abnormally dangerous.

HTLVIII is only one of a family of three viruses. HTLVIII was the first of the family to be discovered. This latter virus causes leukaemia, and is also prevalent in central Africa.

Robert Gallo, who discovered the HTLV family, believes that all three viruses had a common ancestor which originated in central Africa.

There is, however, no direct evidence for this suggestion, although analysis of stored blood samples for the presence of HTLV may further elucidate the problem.

Dr B.M. Greenwood of the Medical Research Laboratories at Banjul in The Gambia recently wrote in the journal Immunology Today, "If there are no special geographical or cultural reasons for the emergence of AIDS in central Africa, then there may be no reason why it should not spread to other areas of tropical Africa.

"An outbreak with an attack rate comparable to that described in Kigali, would result in something approaching 10,000 cases of AIDS a year in the large cities *of southern Nigeria alone.*"

(Compass features)

Playwright makes his point with clarity and force

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

"THEY TELL ME: don't work, don't think, don't go out, don't feel, don't love, don't do this, don't do that... They have changed your entire attitudes. I have never seen a woman walk with pride!" These words are from one of several conversations between Hawwa (Eve) and her university professor, Dr Lufti Adam in Hisham Yanis play 'Eve's Decision: the choice' currently running at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Eve is a determined young woman who knows what she wants and what she does not want: a university degree and an arranged marriage respectively. She also wants to be free to make her own choices — and bear the consequences. This leads her to reject her simple attire and country accent to adopt a sassy tongue and flashy imported clothes, indicative of an inner metamorphosis.

Eve's story is not a real one, but it could be true for any young woman within this part of the world. Eve's struggle for the type of independence her mother and grandmother were denied by social traditions.

Playwright Hisham Yanis plays the role of Dr. Adam. He is the man who at first holds Eve's hand through her educational development and character transformation, only to turn back on her once his theories are actualized in her person.

He represents many who are quite comfortable in their world of abstracts — calling for matters such as intellectual development, women's emancipation and the rejection of social traditions — only to crawl into self-destruction (in this case, the bottle) once they are forced to stand face to face with their ideal world becoming an actuality.

Dr Adam's counterpart is his "obedient" office-boy, Mutee', played by Fuad Shoumaly. He is a thorn in Dr Adam's side with his simple and naive approach to life and his dedicated obedience to the traditions with which he was raised. Subconsciously, Dr Adam tries to negate such a thing by absent mindedly giving Mutee' the name of "Mutlaq" (the abstract). Eve, successfully played by Abeer Issa, is torn between the two worlds.

Director Hani Snobar and playwright Hisham Yanis have excelled where the development of the play's theme. It is effective, direct and clear — without any unnecessary incidents to divert the attention of the audience.

The setting remains the same throughout the play, with Dr Adam's spacious office that includes a desk, a couple of armchairs and shelves filled with books. It is the attire of the characters that is indicative of development and change. Clad in his faultlessly-tailored suit, Dr Adam is laughed at for his ignorance in matters related to the practical world. He is then pitied when he becomes drunk, irrational and possessive, behaviour which leads him out of his job and into ill-matching jackets and trousers. Such a downfall comes about once he realizes that the student he has fallen in love with is no longer dependent on him or on anyone else.

Mutee', funny and wise, is the *only character who never changes* as it takes more than a couple of years for his deeply-rooted traditions to change.

Eve is at first admired for her determination to fight for her beliefs, only to be mildly disliked for rejecting her old personality and adopting an entirely new "modern" character, symbolized by her flashy clothes and uncovered flowing hair.

She is readily forgiven after having learnt a valuable lesson from her "emancipated and happy" girl-friend who had tried to commit suicide because her happiness was only superficial. Eve is then once again strongly admired and loved once she has made it to the graduating honour-role.

She is now a woman who has made her choices, ready to make even more. The world she finds for herself differs from that of her professor and his office-boy, and this is why she earns admiration. It is a world that maintains the respectability of her social traditions and includes theories effectively applied.

Thus, *wearing a working* woman's respectable skirt suit, Eve walks out of Dr Adam's office door, with his blessings, away from excessive traditions and theories into a world created by herself where she can walk with pride.

'Eve's Decision: the Choice' continues at the Royal Cultural Centre until 31 January.

Silk paintings vary in quality

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to The Star

IKBAL SHUKRI's exhibition of paintings on silk at the Royal Cultural Centre this week is a rather disappointing show for, rather than exploit the possibilities and opportunities that painting on silk offers, the artist imposes on the material a style ill suited to it.

The bulk of the exhibition is devoted to nature drawings of birds, flowers and butterflies whose successful execution requires accurate observation, sharp outlines and strong colours, the former the artist doesn't always fulfil and the latter the medium doesn't lend itself to.

Despite these problems the artist does at times overcome the textural handicaps to reproduce in fine detail a birds plummage a butterfly wing or the composites of an iris but at other times the subject and material are in opposition and the painting fails.

The artist, though, is not insensitive to the properties of silk for her backgrounds are the sensuous clouds of dissolving colours and hazy horizons one associates with this medium, some following the grain of the material to form unusual patterns. The backgrounds do not *always enhance the subject* but rather illuminates its shortcomings but in some butterfly studies the two rest in perfect harmony.

The butterfly studies above all are the most oriental of her work where she drops the general heavy handed tone of her work and, with more delicacy and economy of line, draws her subject with minimum effort against a simple dyed background where the artist ventur[es to] paint larger birds of prey [or en]larges her iris interiors to [an] abstract form she is forced [to be] heavier and cruder an[d the] viewer loses all feel of the [mat]erial.

Oriental influences soft[en her] work and help her to produ[ce her] best in one landscape sh[e em]ploys the rhythmic curve[s and] twirls found in classical [Chinese] art but it is a style she [exper]iments with rather than [delves] into.

Ikbal appears to be more [com]fortable with the still vast[ness] of sky and water which sh[e exe]cutes with great skill. He[r most] exquisite painting, that ca[ptures] atmospheric qualities not [found] in other paintings, is a lan[dscape] overhung with rolling s[torm] *clouds and a light filled h[orizon]* set off by tiny sharp silho[uettes] of grazing animals again[st the] sky — here the luminosity [of the] medium is used to full [effect].

Ikbal also seems very m[uch at] home with commercial s[ubjects] such as tear-stained [clowns] painted in various hues [which] seem to have very little [to do] with silk and are directed at attracting a drawing market. This commercial [streak] runs through the whole [exhibi]tion and may account for [the in]consistency in quality and [style]. The artist, one feels, is [more] concerned with colours an[d sub]jects that will appeal to [buyers] than with basic factors of [compo]sition and accuracy and [over]coming the problems rai[sed by] painting on silk. One als[o feels] that she should have bee[n more] selective in what she ex[hibited] as some good paintings a[re lost] amongst lesser ones.

Pianist impresses with technique and musicality

TURKISH PIANIST Yesim Alkaya's recital at the Royal Cultural Centre on Sunday astounded an invited audience with her musicianship and powerful handling and mature understanding of pieces that belied her sixteen years.

Opening her programme with a very clean execution of Scarlatti sonatas with intricate ornaments brilliantly played, her hidden strength was revealed, but not given full rein, till the thirty two variations in C minor by Beethoven where dynamic tonal qualities distinguished her performance.

Yesim's talents are not limited to mere power and strength for she played Schumann's Scenes from Childhood with sensitivity, versatility and expressiveness and stamped this and the Chopin waltzes that were to follow with a personal interpretation with unusual tempi that some audience members might have found too free.

Yesim has all the necessary attributes that mark an excellent pianist who can only improve with maturity yet her youth does not inhibit her assertiveness, rather it imbued the whole performance, that was rhythmically alive, with an attractive freshness.

Experience will polish an already adequate technique, although there were weaknesses in the left hand that did not move through as well as the right but it appears that Yesim as a pianist is already an individual and a musician of high quality who can handle a wide spectrum of styles from the Bartok-like attack of Baran's dissonant suite through to the sustained impressionist world of Debussy, the lyricism of the romantics and the compact techinical rendering of the baroque.

(VB)

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'All That Jazz'

All the world's a stage...

"ALL THAT JAZZ" is no ordinary musical film that runs to the beat of melodious tunes. It is more of a musical drama that runs to the beat of its director's heart (literally, figuratively and musically).

An autobiographical work, the film is based on its maker's (Bob Fosse) own experience as a director of Broadway shows who almost died of *a heart attack. An inspired* director both on stage and in the cinema (one of his best known films is "Cabaret" starring Liza Minelli) Fosse co-wrote as well as directed "All That Jazz", the film that won four academy awards.

At the centre of the film and of the drama is Joe Gideon, accurately portrayed by Roy Scheider the dance director and choreographer of Broadway shows. He is an egotistical artist driving *himself* to death by manic overwork, total carelessness and a hectic way of life. His activities on and off the stage are alternately funny and moving, audacious and exasperating.

We see him as the creative artist, the impulsive womaniser, the very tender and loving father and the ordinary human being scared of and refusing to accept death — (Jessica Lange in the film is the Angel of Death, the mysterious and beautiful Angelique, who keeps incarnating herself in his fantasies and cropping up in his hallucinations).

As we follow Joe Gideon through a day of auditions, rehearsals and philandering, it becomes obvious that to him as the Bard put it

"All the world's a stage
And all the men and women
merely players".

To Joe Gideon, life and show business are one and the same. His salutation in the mirror when he wakes up every day is, "It's show time, folks!"

Life as a theatre is the central metaphor of the film. The image becomes fabulously moving especially after Gideon suffers a heart attack and is rushed to hospital into intensive care.

The hospital becomes the stage for his hallucinatory *musical numbers, brilliantly* conceived and "fantastically" expressed with startling boldness (a magnificent job by the special fantasy designer in the film, Tony Waltor, and director of photography, Giuseppe Rotunno).

The bizarrely attired characters of his imagination are reminiscent of Fellini's extravagent visions.

We go through the five stages of Gideon's facing death (this again is paralleled by a number from one o[f his] *shows) as he starts with* [an]ger, then denial, tries [bar]gaining and when it fails [goes] through depression unti[l he] finally reaches acceptanc[e].

All through these sta[ges] scenes from his shows, [both] real and imagined, [are] staged, climaxed by the s[tun]ning musical number "[Bye] bye life" where he finally [ac]cepts his "Exit" — a [rousingly] striking nu[mber] staged with great flair [and] bold fantasy, during Gide[on's] open-heart surgery.

In another break with m[usi]cal tradition, the film [does] not end happily. After a[...] full of sound and fury, a [life] rich with great talent, de[dica]tion, egomania and [...] Gideon's candle is sn[uffed] out... "a player, that s[truts] and frets his hour upon t[he st]age, and then is heard [no] more ..."

NOTE: The film, sh[own] recently at The Rai[nbow] Cinema is expected t[o be] available at The Rai[nbow] Video Centre soon.

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Arab role in Lebanon

OW IS the time for Arab countries to put in all their efforts in backing the ebanese government and army, when Israel is preparing to withdraw from outh Lebanon. The Lebanese government will face tremendous pressures nd difficulties in taking over the evacuated areas in the south and estaishing peace and harmony in the mountains, the north, and coastal reions in addition to the capital.

Arab role is more important today than any time before. Israel will try to nt its own agents in the South so as to keep the Lebanese Army out and sy. It will also ignite the fire of religious and other sorts of communal olence so as to keep its grip over the area without having to suffer because its presence in the area. One has to admit that one main factor that ought the people of the South together was the presence of the Israeli my as an occupying power. Now that the Israelis are planning to withw, the seeds of division will be planted and nurtured by Israel.

The Arab countries must agree on this danger and decide on a plan to fight Sectarian clashes brought the downfall of Lebanon, as we knew before, the first place and it must not be allowed to return again. First, the Lenese Army must be backed both physically and morally by the Arab couns so as to strengthen the central government and help it extend its aurity all over Lebanon. Second, the Arabs must end their personal vested erests in Lebanon and terminate all their bloody clashes on the soil of t country. The first step in doing that would be to end the presence of n-Lebanese troops there and to stop funding the different factions that e challenging the central government.

Third, financial and material help must be extended to Lebanon to help ild its post-civil war economy and the infrastructures that were destroyed cause of the invasion of Lebanon by Israel. This is particularly important cause if the Lebanese economy remains weak and crippled then political oblems will continue to weaken the government.

Fourth, the Arabs must do their best to keep any foreign involvement ay from Lebanon, because such involvement will no doubt nourish the tarian and factional movements and bring the country once again to the nks of civil wars.

Sixth, the Arab world must help rebuild the Palestinian camps and villages t were destroyed by Israel, so as to preserve the unity of the Palestinian ople and help them to re-establish their schools, factories and farms.

This is an important time for Lebanon and without positive Arab help, the vernment will be unable to face the huge bundle of problems that it inherd as a result of more than ten years of civil wars, foreign interferences d Israeli invasions.

Optimism fails

E WORLD OIL price cut generated by the non-Opec oil producers forced Opec countries to cut their oil production to 16 million barrels per day. w the cartel's oil ministers recommended a $1 cut in the benchmark oil ce bringing down the price to approximately $28 per barrel.

The Opec decision for a production cut was made with the hope that it uld regain balance in the oil market, as they believed, the stock of the dustrial nations would suffice only for 90 days and that they would not ort to draw from their reserves. Naturally, it would have happened and re would have been a scarcity in the oil market, more so, when the Wesn industrial nations are caught in the grip of a severe cold, had they not orted to touch their reserves.

As expected the production cut did not make any impact on the oil marts until now, and for that, lack of discipline among the members on proction quotas and spotmarket sales are responsible. Nevertheless, the eft would have been insignificant in view of the Western stance.

The present crisis, when the Opec countries are concentrating on public rks and infrastructures, adversely affect these countries which are ely depending on oil revenues and with a comparatively low output.

The countries will have to effect cuts in their developmental projects nding or if they want to keep their hundreds of billions of dollars public rks and infrastructures on-going, the governments will have to draw ney from their billions of dollars overseas reserves.

If no tangible changes in the oil market take place in the near future and ec countries still stick to their cut in oil production they will have no her alternative but to dig deep into their overseas reserves so as to keep e public works and infrastructure going. Also, it is high time to concente on industries which could substitute or recoup the fall in oil revenues.

India progresses in its search for sources of energy

INDIA HAS made progress in tapping renewable sources of energy. Solar energy is being used in several enterprises. Research is going on to harness tidal waves in the Gulf of Kuchch to convert them into energy and work is in full swing to complete the feasibility report by March 1987 for launching of a remarkable project for tapping this unconventional source of energy.

India is all set to launch an ambitious project to exploit this renewable source of energy. Preliminary studies conducted in 1966 revealed that there were three possible sites; namely Gulfs of Kuchch and Cambay in Gujarat and the Sundarbans in West Bengal, where tidal waves could be harnessed to generate electricity. This was confirmed by Professor E.M. Wilson of the Safford University, UK in his study in 1975. With tide range of about 7 metres at Kandla, Kuchch is expected to produce 600 MW, while Cambay is estimated to give more than 7,000 MWs.

Nine agencies of the government are working in the Gulf and Rann of Kuchch to complete the feasibility report by 1987 and pave way for the tidal power project. The Central Electricity Authority is responsible for overall planning, management and monitoring of various investigations being carried out by different specialised agencies of Central and State Governments.

From ships to country boats, all are arranged by the Authority for investigations. The preliminary design of foundations, sluice structure which will be floated-in caissons, the dam and study of techno-economic consideration is also the job of the CEA.

The project envisages construction of main dams over the Hansthal Creek, Saru Creek and Phang Creek. These will be of 3.1 kms, 0.7 kms. and 0.5 kms. length respectively. The power house will be constructed at Hansthal Creek. But damming at Phang and Saru Creeks is necessary as the Creek system is interlinked.

The dams will have sluices to let the water at high tide rush into the reservoir and trap it there for coming out at ebb tide though the low head turbines at Hansthal only, and produce 600 MW of electricity. The power house will function for 12 hours in a day; six hours in each tidal cycle.

The three dams will be connected with each other by a 30 km. long low dyke carrying a road on its top and running from Hansthal to Saru. This will reduce the present road distance between the two places by more than 150 kms.

The investigation for this tidal power project began on 9 January, 1982, and most of the field investigations are almost over. The Survey of India has completed the air mapping of Creeks in the little Gulf of Kuchch and the entire levelling work in the 1400 sq. kms. of marshy land along 21° - 12.5'' and 17° - 70'' latitudes. The geological geotechnical data is being collected along the proposed alignment and inside the tidal basin in the Gulf of Kuchch. The Survey of India, Jaipur, with the help of Gujarat Irrigation Department has also completed the erection of Bench Market pillars with markings to provide levels for other surveys and construction works.

It is a huge task requiring ground survey, shallow water tidal observations, study of tidal data for the last 50 years and sediment and discharge data of the rivers emptying into the tidal basin. It involves deep sea tide observations, hydrographic survey, current, silt, float, wave and salinity investigations, mathematical and physical modelling and energy computations.

The Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, has carried out current, sediment and salinity observations during monsoon and dry seasons at nine places in the Hansthal Creek, Kandla Creek, Khoda Creek, Navivat Creek and Kuchch Creek. It has also launched a wave rider buoy at about two miles south of Outer Tuna Buoy and another in Hansthal Creek last year.

The first wave rider buoy was launched in 1982 for measuring height of the waves in the open sea about 20 km. down of Kandla and later at 6 km. from Navalakhi. The buoy launched at Navalakhi drifted away while the other got sunk or lost sometime in July-August 1982, both had to be replaced by the CWPRS.

The Survey of India's Geodetic and Research Branch completed tidal observations at 13 stations in 1981-83. These are Jakhau, Laathedi, Mandvi, Mundra, Jafferwali, Jangi, Safed, Dhora, Hansthal Creek, Navlakhi, Rozi, Sikka and Salaya covering the entire shore line in the Gulf of Kuchch.

The launches of the Minor Port Survey Organisation Ministry of Shipping and Transport, Bombay, leave Kandla Port every morning for sounding the inner Creek system spread over 1,400 sq. kms. The magnitude of work involved can be judged from the fact that the major creeks alone run into a length of more than 300 kms. and their cross-section has to be measured at every 500 mts. They started measuring the creek depths in Mid April last year and after working for two months, lay low till October because of monsoons and strong gales.

More than 50 per cent of the work has been completed till January 1984. The team of the Minor Port Survey Organisation is able to work for only a few months in the year as in May-June the current in the creeks is very strong making it very risky for the launches and row boats to manoeuvre in the creeks. The wind velocity, which varies between 50 to 65 kms. per hour on normal days, adds to the dangers.

The same is true of the Geological Survey personnel who have to land on the marshy ground of the little Rann to carry on their geophysical studies. They check the electrical resistivity by pushing metallic rods into the ground, connecting them to battery by wire and passing current. They are doing the seismic studies to learn about the wave velocities under the earth and conduct gravity measurement to know the underground structure so that it can be learnt as to at what depth the hard rock for founding the base of the dam is located. The Geological Survey of India have already surveyed 1,000 sq.km. area and aimed at studying geophysical conditions over 2,000 sq. km.

There are 60 technicians and experts belonging to the Minor Ports Survey Organisation, the Geological Survey of India, the Gujarat Electricity Board, the coordinators on behalf of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and the Kandla Port Trust working at Kandla. Other organisations are the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, the Naval Hydrographic Office, Dehradun and the Central Design Organisation of Gujarat.

The CWPRS has already prepared a physical Model of the power project at Khadagwasla, which co-related to the new data being supplied by surveyors and scientists. The Centre had sanctioned more than Rs. 2.18 crores for the study, which has now been revised to Rs. 5.3 crores.

The Senior Hydrographer of the Kandla Port Trust said that a major question which is being studied at present is about the effect this power project will have on siltation in the port waters. He said that the Port Trust was spending Rs. 2 crores to Rs. 3 crores every year on dredging. If the project helped in solving this problem it will be a great saving. Dr. Sharma and most of the experts working on the project were confident that it would be so. The actual effect will be known only after studies on the working model and the mathematical model at CWPRS station Kharagwasla are complete.

The engineers and scientists engaged in the investigations of Tidal Power Project in the Gulf of Kuchch are carrying out their work with full dedication and determination. They are fully hopeful to complete the job within five years.

Indian PIB release

Kamel Abu Jaber

Prince Hassan and University Students: A dialogue

Greetings to Jerusalem!

IN A truly comprehensive and open dialogue with a selected number of students from the various departments and colleges of the University of Jordan, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan outlined some of his major ideas concerning Jordan's experiment with development.

As a witness to the dialogue, I was impressed not only by the frankness and directness of the Prince's responses to the questions posed by the students, but also by our students' demeanour, attitude and openness in meeting Jordanian leadership at the highest level.

The dialogue, held annually between Jordanian officials and a selected number of students and now in its second year, is proving to be a very successful experiment that, in its own way, helps bridge the gap between officials and citizens. A gap that our young students pointed out is not as wide in Jordan as it may exist in some other neighbouring countries.

In his talk, the Prince emphasized internal matters though some of the questions dealt with the Palestine problem its course and possible future developments. Israeli actions on the ground, and Israel's intransigent stand vis a vis the prospects of the conclusion of an honourable peace were also discussed. There was agreement on ultimate Arab goals between the two parties of the dialogue and a discussion of the ideas and tools that should be pursued to achieve them.

Turning to internal development, the Prince concentrated on three major issues: Democracy and participation, the Jordanian development experiment and thirdly, the need for the development of a comprehensive concept of Jordan's educational process.

The questions and answers to these major issues were on a high level of sophistication and honesty. While the students were aware that the recalling of parliament was a necessary first step towards increasing the level of political participation, they did note that the present body was elected in 1967: Times, circumstances and challenges have changed tremendously since then. One student raised the question of the possibility of lifting the ban on political parties, pointing out that the circumstances that may have necessitated such a move have also changed.

The Prince pointed out that the Jordanian regime, adhering to its centrist approach, has always adhered, and often against very difficult odds, to the concept of a constructive dialouge between official and citizen: witness the conference, symposia, and seminars on various political, economic and social aspects of Jordanin development.

The Jordanian experiment in the economic field has been an outstanding success; with Jordan, though facing terrific challenges, advancing at a much greater pace than anyone would have expected a decade or two ago.

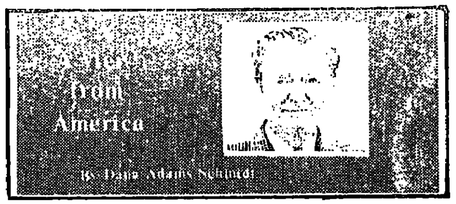
Jordan's annual rate of growth, except for the past year, has averaged about 10 per cent, a very impressive record indeed. Concomitant with this have been great advances in Jordan's social development, helped, no doubt by the cultural tradition of facile social mobility. In his remarks, the Prince emphasized the need to separate economic issues from political ones.

In debating the third major issue with the students, Prince Hassan was most lucid. There is a need to assess and evaluate the educational process in Jordan with a view towards the development of a concept of the educational process for at least the coming fifteen years. There is a felt need to institute this idea and as quickly as possible.

Jordan does not educate for itself alone but for others as well, principally its neighbours. Jordanian education needs to look into the future. As of now over 50 per cent of our population is under 15 years of age: What sort of education and values should we give them to survive the year 2020 when most of them will still be in middle life?

The dialogue, perhaps raised more questions than it provided definite answers to, but then, that too was healthy.

Tasks of a peacemaker



WASHINGTON — We are in the first week of the second four-year term of President Reagan and we must consider what that means for the future of this country and for the future of the world, including, of course, the Middle East.

First of all, Mr. Reagan's overwhelming electoral victory and the fact that this is a second and necessarily last term as president confer on him unusual power. Mr. Reagan's innate sense of modesty notwithstanding the concept of "imperial presidency" is cropping up.

One aspect of this power may be seen in the presidential decision to pull out of the World Court proceedings on Nicaragua's suit against the United States — presumably because he feared the court's investigation would make public to the world the CIA's covert support of guerrillas seeking to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

This is a defiance of international law in sharp contrast to President Truman's decision in 1952 to comply with the decision of the Supreme Court which said he had no right to seize the country's steel mills. It brings to mind that the president has decided that the United States Federal Courts had no right to rule that it was unlawful for the administration to strip thousands of the disabled of their social security benefits.

In other words, a tendency to put presidential authority above the law.

Then there is the matter of the deficit, a key factor in plotting the future of this country's and possibly the Western world's future economy. Thus far, there is no clear presidential approach to this issue. Official doctrine is still that rising revenues will solve the problem. The need for cuts in national defence and social security have not been recognized by the president.

So far, he has been protected by improvements in the US economy, falling interest rates and lessened inflation. But uncertainty and ambivalence remain.

In the foreign field, President Reagan has begun what may become his most creative endeavour by beginning talks with the Soviet Union on arms control. It is being said that he cherishes the idea of being remembered in history as the president who brought peace to the world. But if he is to succeed here he will have to accept the need to make important concessions to the Soviet Union in order to get reciprocal concessions.

He may have to forgo the right of first-strike with intercontinental missiles — a right the US has long cherished because it might be necessary to use nuclear weapons to halt a Soviet invasion of Western Europe. The experts say it may also be necessary for the US to propose a limitation of sea-launched Cruise missiles. If curbed on land and in space the arms race might be channelled out to sea, thereby vitiating achievements at other levels.

Unfortunately, our president has not shown himself as willing to make concessions of any kind.

In the Middle East, the president's hope of making his mark as peacemaker holds some promise. After so much frustration in the past, and the bitter onslaughts of the Shia fundamentalist, not to mention the kidnappers of Lebanon, it may be difficult for the administration to make up its mind. Yet the United States is really the only country in the world with the power and resources to do so.

Here again, in order to capture the shining prize of peace, the United States would have to make painful decisions. It would have to decide to use Israel's extreme economic plight to persuade the Israelis to make concessions to the Palestinians.

That is to say, if the US is to bail the Israelis out to the tune of more than $4 billions, then they must listen to the United States too. This the United States has not been willing, or perhaps able, to insist on since the time when President Eisenhower told the Israelis they must withdraw from Sinai. But, in a second term, when the president does not have to worry about re-election any more, he might risk it.

The United States itself would have to make a hard decision to deal with the Palestinians through the PLO. But that too is possible if Mr. Reagan is really anxious to secure his place in history as a peacemaker.

Memorandum

By Osama El-Sherif

A matter of taste

THE MAYOR of Amman is having a tough time explaining the virtues of his decision to paint Amman white and then turn it green! Last week, Mr Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh met the press on a television open debate show and explained the elementary principles on beauty and aestheticism that will result from painting the cement houses white thus giving an overall view of the city of Amman that is indigenous and harmonious.

Naturally, many citizens do not see eye to eye with the Mayor and either disagree on grounds of taste and appreciation of beauty or on pure financial platforms.

To say the truth, I am fully behind the Mayor in his endeavours to turn Amman green. It has been some time since we had a Mayor with a green thumb. But I am hesitant to announce my backing when it comes to the issue of "Paint Your House... White." First, we should ask why the colour white? I believe that white-washed houses on the Greek Isles give a breath-taking contrast with the deep blue sea and sky. Most towns and villages on the Mediterranean shores are painted white because the colours go with the local environment. Here I don't think the brown hills of Amman, with the grey sky can develop a successful contrast with the proposed white houses.

Let us also remember that Amman becomes a muddy city in winters and this will turn the white houses into brown again with the first rain droplets of winter. That means the painting scheme will have to be repeated every year so as to keep the harmony of colours and preserve the beauty that is our aim.

Another problem is the financial one. To paint a small house white will need no less than JD 50 to buy paint and hire some men to do the job. Bigger houses will require more money. Now if the project was to be done, say only once every three of four years, one could justify the added cost. But every year and after every winter, then the issue becomes a pressing financial burden on every family that has a concrete house, not to mention that these families are almost always of limited incomes and modest living standards.

So we have a problem here. One might ask how did the Mayor arrive at such an important decision without seeing all these problems ahead? Answer is unknown. There must have been a committee or a sub-committee recommending something and addressing issues the way its members saw fit. Then, it was for the Mayor to give the final word. The people involved had nothing to do with the making of the decision although they are the parties directly involved... this is not fair, is it?

Amman is not anyone's city. It is ours and we alone, together, can decide if we want it painted white or red for that matter. Also the understanding of beauty is not a private right reserved for those in high places or authoritative positions. The municipality has every right to plant trees in public squares and divert traffic according to the city's needs and expansion. But when it comes to painting the houses of citizens, then the citizens have to be asked and persuaded and not ordered. This, Mr. Mayor, is not your prerogative, it's your duty.

GCC strategy faces equipment problems

By Sajid Rizvi

LONDON —(CF) Until the mid-1970s, Communist subversion and insurrection appeared to be a major threat to the Arabian Peninsula.

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, who championed the anti-Communist cause more openly than any of his neighbours, invited Arab condemnation and international scorn with his controversial military support to Oman in fighting the Marxist revolt in Dhofar.

Communist groups also were active in Bahrain and Kuwait.

When the Shah was toppled and replaced by the Islamic revolution of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Communist movement quickly 'disappeared'.

Conservative regimes received Khomeini with contempt, then alarm as his exhortations to rulers to conform to his Islamic ideal became insistent.

Islamic fundamentalism emerged as a new threat and found immediate appeal on the fringes of those Gulf communities which either had Persian connections or were confused by the rapid westernization that oil wealth had brought.

Although fundamentalism is seen as a greater, or at least a more immediate, challenge than Communism in affluent societies of the Gulf, the rulers recognize the danger of economic deprivation infusing new life into Communist-oriented movements.

However, recent moves to befriend or at least normalize relations with the Soviet Union and China appear to be aimed at disarming any possible Communist threat.

Oil revenues are not likely to recover from the present downward slide in the foreseeable future. Already, Gulf governments have had to slash budgets drastically. More cuts, and larger deficits, are imminent.

The economies, stretched to the limit in the boom years 1974-1980, are not likely to contract easily, and austerity will not go down well with the populace.

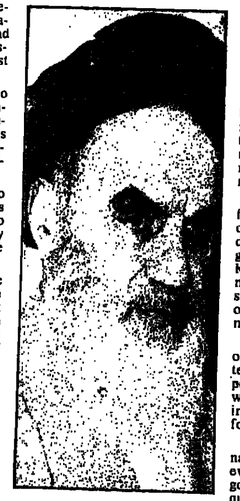
One response to the economic troubles has been to repatriate some of the unskilled immigrant workers, but even that cannot be done on a large scale without risking massive dislocation of economies.

Nationals, meanwhile, grumble because their generous earnings from commissions and franchises denied to non-nationals have shrunk with recession.

Whether the loss of earnings will lead to discontent on any significant scale is yet to be determined. Nevertheless, governments have invested millions of dollars in equipping police and security agencies.

Social risk factors

The multi-cultural and, lately, multi-lingual society made up of peninsular, African and Palestinian Arabs and Asian immigrants presents obvious security headaches.



Ayatollah Khomeni

Recent incidents have seen the spillover effect of Iranian exiles' attempts to involve the Gulf in their campaign against Khomeini, and of India-Pakistan tension and Sikh-Hindu friction.

Because of stringent citizenship laws, the majority of foreigners still are alienated from the nationals. Apart from causing undue frustration among key members of the community, this has stunted the growth of nationalism.

Most Arabs would insist they belong to one nation, the Arab nation, but in practical terms that lip-service does not go far in molding the local society into a more composite one than it is now.

One of the biggest problems faced by the collective military organization has been the standardization of equipment. The goal is unlikely to be advanced by Kuwait embracing the Soviet war machine while other littoral states continue to be dependent on US, British and French equipment.

It is argued that diversification of weapons sources is a long-term advantage, but a hodgepodge of equipment certainly would disrupt efforts to create an indigenous rapid deployment force.

Politically, though, the regional states have come closer, as evidenced by increased inter-governmental co-operation, frequent consultations within the Gulf Coöperation Council and the obvious, albeit temporary, burying of border differences between Iraq and Kuwait and between Oman and the United Arab Emirates over the Buraimi oasis.

Conclusion

Although a more sophisticated and balanced approach to security has been undertaken jointly by the Gulf governments, key questions on the effectiveness of their endeavour remain unanswered.

Can they mount a co-ordinated military response to any closure of the Hormuz Strait? Can they win or even contain a wider conflict that may ensue from such an engagement? Can the lower Gulf stay indefinitely impervious to the conflict in the north?

The answer to all three is no, at present. A further escalation of the conflict, blocking oil exports from Hormuz, as seemed imminent in the summer of 1984, most certainly will provoke US and/or allied military action.

In June, Kuwait tankers were reported sailing under US Navy protection in the lower Gulf, as Iran and Iraq traded scores against neutral shipping in the north.

A wider conflict immediately would make lower Gulf oil installations vulnerable to hostile action, whether sabotage or naval or air attack, launched from Iran.

But even if no escalation took place, the Gulf nations still would have to contend with spillover effects, such as higher insurance costs, a low turnover in trade with Iran's huge consumer market, and a general sense of insecurity.

Amid these scenarios, the current defence and political moves by the Gulf governments represent a holding exercise whose long-term objectives and potential impact on regional security must not be underestimated.

Palestinians in Brazil

By Harold Emert

BRASILIA, —(CF). Brazil currently hosts about 40,000 Palestinian refugees. They are represented nationwide by 40 societies dedicated 'to defend Palestinian interests and preserve national traditions and culture,' according to a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization in Brazil, Fawzi El-Mashni.

The societies form a Federation which represented Brazil last July in Sao Paulo, where a newly-formed Confederation representing over 500,000 Palestinians exiled in Latin America and the Caribbean met for the first time.

Nelson Haddad, the director of the Palestinians' Club in Santiago, Chile, was elected the president of the new Confederation and Jasser Ackel, leader of the Federation of Arab-Brazilian Palestinian Organizations, was elected vice-president by the 22 delegates. The second congress of the Confederation will be held in 1986 in Santiago, Chile.

Palestinian migration to Brazil began shortly after the 1948 creation of Israel. In the 1950s the first refugees settled in the northern regions of Brazil, but later there was a movement to the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, where Palestinians mostly live outside the big cities.

"It's difficult to say if all of them are satisfied here," said Mashni. But in general, Brazil is an open society. Nevertheless, they want to recover the rights to their land — their hearts are divided between their country of origin and the country where they now live."

Mashni put it this way: "Everyone has two personalities, the central and peripheral. The first signifies traditions and native culture, while the second signifies assimilation. I believe that the first is always the stronger one. On the other hand, my people have no option but to adapt as best as they can to new environments. They therefore have Brazilian passports."

These passports give the Palestinians the same right to emigrate to other lands as any other Brazilian citizen, but relatively few of them do.

The majority work in commerce. "We are people much like any other people. Many of our children attend Brazilian universities studying to be doctors, economists and other professionals.

It is difficult to maintain our traditions with children who are born in Brazil, but nevertheless we try via education in not only Portuguese-speaking but Arab-language schools."

Mashni himself studied at the President Getulio Vargas Foundation in Rio de Janeiro and speaks fluent Portuguese. Palestinians were formerly represented in Brazil by the Arab League.

In April 1979, under the leadership of Dr Farid Suwwani, they cut ties with the League and set up an information office for the Palestine Liberation Organization in the nation's capital, Brasilia.

Mosque under the skyscrapers

By Katherine Kennedy

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Every Friday afternoon under the shadows of Manhattan's skyscrapers some 200 Muslims perform the salaat.

Jersey City is an industrial and commercial centre (population 223,000) across the Hudson River from Manhattan island, and its 12 miles (20 km) of waterfront form part of the Port of New York. It is also home to 3,000-5,000 Muslims.

The Jersey City mosque is a converted Masonic lodge, a three-storey red brick building with green copper trim around the windows and a pair of stucco eagles midway up the wall. A broad white placard over the door says in flowing black Arabic script, 'Masjid Jerseyyan' and in English, 'Jersey City Islamic Centre.'

On the third floor is a cavernous room covered in threadbare carpeting where prayers are held. The walls are still a washed-out green, the old organ loft remains hanging over the entry door, and a stage at the opposite end is a boarded over.

On Friday afternoons the vestibule is strewn with a wide array of hiking, running and walking shoes removed before the owners entered the mosque. An Arab muezzin, old and tiny, chants the call to prayer into the microphone, 'Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar.' The community settles down for the sermon.

The mosque is undergoing a US$170,000 renovation, including repaving the parking lot. A grade school is planned to occupy part of the same building, with Arabic as one of the scheduled classes.

Muhammad al-Hanooti, the sheikh, is a Palestinian Sunni

Jersey city mosque

who lived in Iraq and Kuwait before his appointment to the United States by the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA).

The sheikh estimated the number of Muslims in the state of Jew Jersey as 30,000 to 35,000, — mostly Arab immigrants. He said approximately 50 American men and women converted locally. Islam is spreading among blacks and women because both feel they are oppressed,' Hanooti said in an interview

He said conversion gave people a sense of inner peace, because they had something to hang onto, although they could get a similar feeling from any strong faith.

An American-born Muslim from Union City, New Jersey, who gave his name only as Khalil, enjoys the sense of security he got from Islam. 'These days and times have so many beliefs; (Islam) makes it very simple, it's disciplined, basically monotheistic; there is only one faith; what separates people is tradition, and most tradition is man-made.''

Khalil goes to the mosque to pray every two or three days. The mosque has a Sunday school for children which gives Islamic religious training and Arabic language lessons. Prayers are held the regulation five times a day. A large poster on the front wall of the mosque shows five clock faces with their hands set at the times of prayers. Lines of masking tape on the floor mark the direction of Mecca.

Juma', the main Friday prayer meeting, begins with an informal question and answer period, in which the sheikh dispenses religious advice bilingually — in Arabic and English — amplified with a microphone. Questions involve Koran and hadith (Islamic tradition). A typical question was whether the elephant was one of the animals created for man.

Hanooti replied, 'No, very unusual that a man would have an elephant to carry him.' He named the camel, sheep, goat and cow as the four animal created tame for man's use.

While the men ask questions, a much smaller number of women sit in the back corner. They wear the American version of Islamic dress — long loose skirts, leggings, veils wrapped around the head to form a wimple, totally concealing hair.

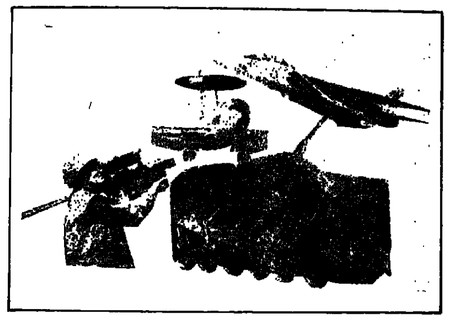
Asked why Arabs should want to emigrate to the United States, the sheikh said motivation varied with nationality. For Egyptians, he said, the main impetus was to better their lives; for Palestinians, 'they have no land, they are homeless, so what do you expect?'

Compass News Features

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

In 1984 US arms sales to the Middle East: 8.8 billion vs. $7.4 billion in 1983



US arms: Sales to Middle East on the increase

THE TWO largest purchasers of American arms in 1984 were Middle Eastern countries, with nearly 60 per cent of American government-to-government arms sales abroad sold to three countries in the region. Altogether, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt were responsible for $8.3 billion of the $14 billion in salos the Pentagon racked up this year, according to US department of defence figures. Total military sales to the entire Middle East stood at $8.8 billion, as opposed to $7.4 billion last year.

Turkey was not only the biggest customer of American arms in the Mideast, but in the world, with $4.2 billion of its $4.4 billion in purchases going toward the acquisition of 160 F-16 fighter planes. The country, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is modernizing its armed forces.

The region (and the world's) second largest customer, the Saudis bought $2.8 billion worth of spare parts and maintenance equipment for the AWACS and other American aircraft used by the Saudi Air Force. In addition, the kingdom is upgrading its "Peace Shield" programme, ground-to-air communications network. American companies winning major contracts during the past year were the Northrop Corp., of Los Angeles, California, who recently received one $13.4 million and one $12 million contract for spare parts, management and other services for the Saudi Arabian Air Force, and McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Co. of St. Louis, Missouri, who received a $24 million air force contract for support of the Saudis' F-15 programme.

Egypt's purchases were up from last year by 25 per cent with $982 million as opposed to $721.5 million. This was still significantly lower than the country's $2.12 billion investment in American arms in 1982. The Egyptians went shopping this year for product improvement kits for their Hawk ground-to-air defence systems; 537 tracked vehicles, and air-to-ground search radars. In addition, several large contracts were awarded for maintenance and supply support of existing systems.

Purchases by Lebanon tailed off with $151 million as compared with 1983's $428.7 million. This year, the Lebanese purchased ammunition, spare parts and supplies to support previously purchased American equipment.

The region's surprise was Israel. In 1983, the Jewish state purchased $2.49 billion worth of American arms; 1984 sales only amounted to $118.5 million. The country, in the midst of the worst economic crisis in its 36-year-history, is too overburdened by debt repayment to make new investments on the scale of previous years. In addition, the US Congress this year authorized Israel to apply $250 million in military sales credit towards Israeli-made arms — rather than American — providing the purchases go toward the proposed Lavie jet fighter. Likewise, the Israelis are obliged by Congress to spend $300 million on research and development for the Lavie in the US.

This year, the US also sold nearly $300 million in construction contracts to Middle Eastern countries, including $230,000 to Bahrain; $29.9 million to Egypt; $263 million to Saudi Arabia; $5.5 million to Sudan; and $1.2 million to North Yemen.

As in previous years, there were several Middle Eastern countries conspicuously absent from the list of American customers. No sales were made to either Iran or Iraq. Iran has not been sold American equipment since the hostage crisis in 1978-80. In addition, the United States has remained neutral in the Iran-Iraq war and chosen not to sell equipment to either side, although with recently resumed diplomatic relations between Washington and Baghdad, the dynamics may change. Syria, also not an American customer, does most of its shopping in Moscow. As for Ethiopia, South Yemen (both avowed Marxist states) and Libya, one Pentagon spokesman said: "Our sales programmes are only with those countries that further the worldwide security objectives of the US."

The complete country-by-country listing of purchases by the Near East region is as follows, according to the US Department of Defence:

The last military contract in 1984 was awarded to Northrop Corp. of Los Angeles, California. The $148 million contract provides for the supply of electronic warfare equipment for the Saudi Arabian Air Force's F-15 fighter planes, as well as improvements for Saudi Arabian RF-5E aircraft.

In terms of construction contracts, the Bahrain Defence Force is providing funds for the US Army Corps of Engineers to design Bahrain's first military airfield. This month, the Corps will select a firm to help complete the $100 million project's design work within a one-year period. The Corps will design the aircraft shelters, munitions maintenance facilities while the selected firm will draw up plans for the airfield, living quarters, and administrative and repair shop facilities. Unlike Saudi Arabia, the Bahraini client is in no way favouring local firms in Corps' choosing of a contractor for the military airfield.

(MidEast report)

US Arms sales 1983-84

(In million US $)

Country	US arms agreements 1984	US arms agreements 1983
Bahrain	.007	4.97
Egypt	982.7	721.5
Israel	118.5	2,487.5
Jordan	25.4	52.2
Kuwait	154.9	152.3
Lebanon	151.8	428.7
Morocco	31.4	67.7
Oman	1.8	.53
Qatar	1.4	.18
Saudi Arabia	2,844.1	7,419.7
Somalia	24.2	6.6
Sudan	41.7	31.0
Tunisia	21.4	9.4
Turkey	4,475.2	575.0
UAE	4.1	663.2
Yemen (Sanaa)	1.2	9.0

Financial Market Report

Market steady

By Mamdouh El Ghaly
Star Financial Market Analyst

HANDLING VOLUME at the market was extremely low during this week and prices continued to decline slightly, notwithstanding the market was totally steady.

From 57 companies whose shares were handled, 21 companies had no change in their share value.

400,000 shares were handled at the market value of JD 380,000 divided among 430 contracts; a decrease of 68.3 per cent compared to last week:

The daily handling average came to JD 76,000 with a deviation of 63.8 per cent or 12.8 per cent of total around this average, thus indicating instability at the market on the last day of transactions.

The shares of 57 companies were handled of which 8 companies gained including:

1- Al Dava Development & Investment	closing at JD 1.280 up from JD 1.220
2- National Steel	closing at JD 1.200 up from JD 1.160
3- Wool Industry	closing at JD .920 up from JD .900

28 Companies lost including:

1- Paper and Cardboard Co.	closing at JD 1.550 down from JD 1.750
2- Jordan-French Insurance	closing at JD 2.200 down from JD 2.800
3- Al Nasin Exchange	closing at JD .950 down from JD 1.000
4- Jordan-Gulf Insurance	closing at JD .930 down from JD .970
5- Islamic Investment House	closing at JD 1.050 down from JD 1.090

21 Companies had no change in their share values.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 118,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 50,000.

Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sector according to the following percentages:

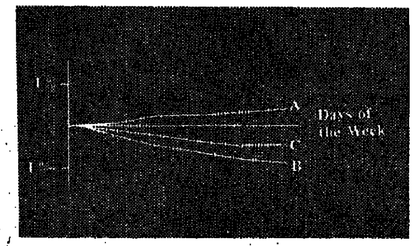
Sector	Market share	Last week's share
Banks	47.1%	83.6%
Industry	38.5%	12.5%
Services	11.3%	2.2%
Insurance	3.1%	1.7%

Prominent firms whose shares were traded, by sector.

	Share of sector	Share of market
Banks (out of 21 traded)		
1. Darco	29.4%	13.8%
2. National Bank	15.6%	7.3%
3. Jordan Securities	13.2%	6.2%
Industrials (out of 24 traded)		
1. Jordanian Industrial Investment	37.6%	14.5%
2. Jordan Petroleum Refinery	23.1%	8.9%
3. Arab Medicine Manufacturing Co.	9.8%	3.8%
Services (out of 5 traded)		
1. Jordan Electric Power	57.9%	6.6%
2. Management Consultants	36%	4.1%
Insurance (out of 7 traded)		
1. Jordan-French Insurance	34.6%	1.1%
2. Arab Insurance	23.1%	.7%

The Star index at closing time came to 240.50, a decrease of 1.1 points or .4 per cent negative compared to last week.

The weekly record



A. Companies showing an increase in stock prices
B. Companies with a price decrease
C. The mean record figure

ECONOMY BRIEF

Kuwaiti-owned company in bid for North Sea concessions

• LONDON (Opecna) — The Kuwaiti-owned Sante Fe group is among 135 companies which have applied for oil exploration rights in the 195 North Sea blocks put on offer last year by the British government.

Sources here said Wednesday that 180 of the blocks would be awarded on a 'discretionary' basis, while the rest would go to the highest bidder.

Sante Fe, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation since 1982, has applied for licences for both types.

Agfund signs 22 Third World development agreements

• RIYADH (Opecna) — The Arab Gulf Fund (AGFUND) has signed agreements worth $11.43 million dollars for 22 development projects in Third World countries, including a $4 million assistance scheme for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Over the past three and a half years, the fund has contributed more than $120 million to help finance 163 Third World projects.

• TOKYO (Opecna) — Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe has called on the International Energy Agency (IEA) to promote an 'unofficial dialogue' with oil producing countries.

He made the proposal at a meeting here last week with Mrs Helga Steeg, executive director of the Paris-based agency, which represents 21 of the world's major industrialized countries, including Japan.

Steeg was reported to have agreed that an exchange of information with oil producing countries would make implementation of energy policies in consuming countries easier.

NOTICE
AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION
WORLD BANK — MULTI-MODE TRANSPORT PROJECT - GENERAL
NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders from member countries for supply of Permanent Way Materials as per details given below:

1. Country - Jordan
2. Project Title - Supply of Permanent Way Materials for Renewal Project: Aqaba Railway Corporation, Jordan.
3. Loan Number - 2463-0-JO
4. Project Information - The materials are required for carrying out complete Track Renewal for 101.4 kms. of track in three stretches between El-Hassa Jn. to Aqaba on Aqaba Railway Corporation, Ma'an, Jordan. Govt. of Jordan has received World Bank loan for the multimode transport project, which includes this work.
5. Description of Materials:
RAILS, WOODEN SLEEPERS, CONCRETE SLEEPERS, FASTENERS, ETC.
6. Bidding Documents will be available at the office of Aqaba Railway Corporation, Ma'an or its representative at the Ministry of Transport, Amman and upon payment of non-refundable fee JD 160.
7. Offers must be handed over to chief clerk at Ma'an Station not later than 1200 o'clock on Saturday, 16-3-1985.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

When yellow gold follows black gold

The cash crisis in the Gulf is forcing investors to liquidate their gold holdings

THE "GOLD ERA" in the Arab world is close to its end. The Arabs simply have no more faith in the yellow metal. "It seems that gold has become a bad omen," lamented a disgruntled Arab trader. On Thursday, 3 January, the New Year took off breaking the gold "sound barrier" of $300 per ounce troy on the London market. Only for a short while, because the next day, significantly enough, the gold prices slumped below $300 at the Commodity Exchange in New York, for the first time since the depth of the American recession on June 22, 1982.

Unlike 2 1/2 years ago, the drop in the price of gold in 1985 has something to do with the falling oil prices and their predictable sequels in the Gulf. As the height of the Mecca incident, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Khomeini's theocratic rule over Iran at the end of 1979, the ounce of gold reached a record $850 in New York trading on 21 January, 1980. Five years later, that same ounce of gold has depreciated by more than $550!

Selling from Middle East investors should not come as a surprise, though. It is a fact that the price of oil dropped, officially at least, from $34 a barrel to $29 as per a decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries gathered in London in March 1983. Another fact is that this barrel of oil is currently selling at around $25 on the spot market. The direct consequence of this big margin is that the oil producers' revenue has dwindled markedly.

The Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti budgets started to show unheard-of deficits in 1984-1985. The main client in those countries that flushes the private sector is, to be sure, the government with hundred of billions of dollars to be spent on public works and infrastructure. With shortfalls in oil receipts, predictably came cutbacks in development projects. To make things worse, governments started delaying payments for works completed for various reasons. It was quite certain, nevertheless, that some of the real reasons were that the governments in the Gulf didn't want to dig deep into their billions of dollars in reserve holdings just to pay constructors and contractors, particularly if they could wait out that situation hoping for higher oil prices in the forthcoming (now current) winter. This winter, however, the prices went rather down and the temperature up in the Northern Hemisphere.

This liquidity crisis was first felt by the private sector, which started to draw on its bank credit lines. The trouble is that the local banks were already short of liquidities because of jumbo loans secured to Latin American and Third World nations during the hey day of syndications in the late 1970s. Arab banks, like most international banks, are now content to collect interest on those $9.8 billion loans in 1982, or 11.5 per cent of the total market, postponing any payment of principal. Altogether, Arab banks arranged a total of $32 billion in syndicated loans between 1977 and mid-1983.

With local banks substantially reducing their lines to the private sector, the wealthy merchants felt compelled to turn to their reserves and overseas investments. Those liquid investments were either Treasuries, or certificates of deposit, or stocks and bonds. Most of the investments were made in US dollar, a high-yielding strong currency that is increasing in value almost daily in an equally (and that is very important for the Arab) stable country with a slowing rate of inflation.

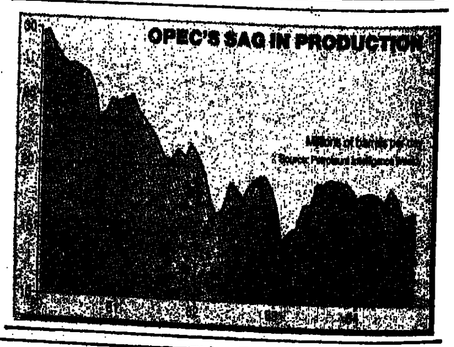
"Unlike 2 1/2 years ago, the drop in the price of gold in 1985 has something to do with the falling oil prices and their predictable sequels in the Gulf. As the height of the Mecca incident, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Khomeini's theocratic rule over Iran at the end of 1979, the ounce of gold reached a record $850 in New York trading on 21 January, 1980. Five years later, that same ounce of gold has depreciated by more than $550!"

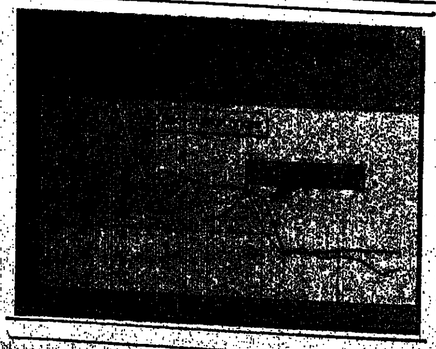
"The other liquid investment, of course, was gold, a heavy commodity which is stored at a charge, plus insurance and eventually transportation, and yielding no interest. Given a choice between the two cash-generating options, gold evidently should be liquidated first".

The other liquid investment, of course, was gold, a heavy commodity which is stored at a charge, plus insurance and eventually transportation, and yielding no interest. Given a choice between the two cash-generating options, gold evidently should be liquidated first.

That's why we foresee that gold is going to be dumped in the world markets by Arab investors and banks at least until this spring in a crying effort to raise cash to meet daily requirements at home. The price of the yellow metal is bound to follow the price of the black gold in the oil-rich Middle East. An increase in petroleum prices would bring about a substantial inflow of funds to the private sector and the central banks whereafter such funds would likely find a haven again in the gold vault. The reverse — as the latest events have shown — is also sadly true.

(MidEast report)





World Bank seeks special aid facility

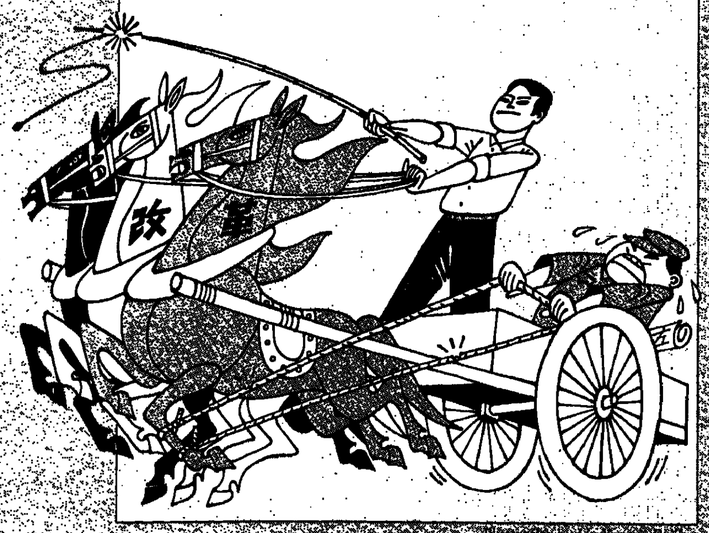
WASHINGTON ((Opecna) — Donor countries will meet in Paris on 31 January for two days under World Bank auspices to discuss the establishment of a special $1 billion facility for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Attempts are afoot to seek funding for the proposed initiative over a three-year period. Countries willing to undertake major economic policy reforms will be considered under the programme.

The virtues of the bomb

—see center pages

Not only in China



The horses of economic reform that are galloping now through the world's largest nation are stirring in other lands and distant places today, too.

China's bursting economic reforms, unchecked by the perspiring man of the past, involve the free interplay of market forces of supply and demand, with distinct prospects of risk and reward. These same economic hoofbeats are echoing with fresh intensity in Eastern Europe where workers (continued on page 3)

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WorldPaper

Featuring fresh perspectives from around the world on matters of global concern.

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STAR

Letter from Aden

Musings of 'Mad Mitch' and a port passed by

By Tarzie Vittachi
Associate Editor at Large

IMAGINE A COUNTRY with no mineral resources and very little arable land. Much of the land is moonscape with tiny villages huddling against whatever shade the crags afford and wherever there is a rill of water. Ancient mariners' tales of pearl banks around the island of Socotra are tales as tall as Sinbad's.

Twenty years ago, no one outside the area had heard of Yemen and the Yemeni people. All we knew was the port of Aden. It stood at the foot of the Red Sea and corresponded to Port Said at the head. Aden was the port of the Arabian peninsula—the Saudis and the Gulf countries.

Aden is no longer a major international Aden is no longer a major international harbor. Oil money and and airlines have changed the patterns of trade out of familiar recognition. Besides, South Yemen is a Communist country and so the West, where most of the international media are concentrated, wants to play with capitalist North Yemen. So Aden is passed by.

But those are black-and-white perceptions of reality and, therefore, distorting. South Yemen does have a Marxist government, but I have never seen one which is more relaxed. There are no "Down with imperialists" banners and red flags in the street. No slogan blaring. Islam's "tarekat" (teaching) and its "shariat" (traditional practices) are pervasively present.

In the villages, "burka"-veiled women are everywhere. But there is no heavy religiosity or neanderthal fundamentalism noticeable, just as there is no heavy ideological rigidity. Contradictors coexist peacefully and, in some measure, graciously. And, interestingly, the hyper-puritanism which characterizes the stereotypical authoritarian regime is blessedly absent.

An exciting people's movement has been taking place in South Yemen these past few months. It is not the usual kind of uprising. It is an uprising of the mind. In 5,000 villages, tens of thousands of small groups of adults, men and women, between 20 and 45 years of age, sometimes older, are spending two hours every day on becoming literate and numerate. Their teachers are professionals and "ulemas" (teachers of the Koran), as well as teenage schoolboys and schoolgirls. It is marvelous to see a group of women, some with infants on their laps, sitting on the dust floor under a makeshift shelter of palm leaves intently taking lessons from a child.

The target for the year's end is 100 percent literacy. They won't make it: the nomads, about 20,000, cannot be pinned down and some villages are far too isolated for a teacher to get to. But 90 percent literacy is more than most countries—even in the industrial world—have achieved.

As I sat on a rock on an Aden beach telescoping my inner eye on the corresponding Sri Lankan beach across the Arabian sea, my mind drifted to the old, old past in the 8th to 14th centuries when Arab dhows set sail to the Orient, zigzagging along the trade winds to fetch spices and tea and silks to be sold in Baghdad, Damascus and Europe. They carried an ulema on many of these boats. Religion and trade went hand in hand.

The more recent past—the British colonial past—is still around as it is in all the old colonies, not only in the architectural relics in the crater sea but also in the minds of people who grew up on the cusp of independence. "Mad Mitch"—the crazy, charismatic Bull Dog Drummond who fought an unsuccessful rear-guard action for imperialism in Aden in the 1960's—is now a fading memory. But there will be more like him elsewhere, standing tall, trying to keep down what the British used to call the Fuzzy-Wuzzies, i.e., poor people who want to be their own masters. Heigh-ho.

ILLUSTRATION BY HAL MAYFORTH

Cover illustration:
The words on the galloping horses spell "Reform," and the perspiring bureaucrat represents the "leftist deviations."

(continued from cover) are assuming control of the means and management of production, in parts of Latin America where the creative energy of entrepreneurship is recognized anew, and in Southeast Asia where economic freedoms come before political ones. In Hong Kong, by contrast, fear of losing long-cherished economic freedoms under future Chinese control is a preoccupation of all.

The forces of change differ from country to country, and so do the reforms. But the central impulses are similar: dismantling current controls in order to mobilize market forces in a drive for the creation of wealth.

Creating 'market' Marxism...

...opens China to rest of world

By Zhou Lifang
Special to WorldPaper

BEIJING—China and Britain initialed a joint declaration on September 26, 1984, specifying that China will resume exercising sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997. Four weeks later, the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee decided on reforms of China's economic structure.

These two events may have been coincidental in timing, but they are closely interrelated in that the reforms will, in time, exert a tremendous impact on the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.

The main thrust of the reforms, as indicated in the decision, is to revitalize China's economy, which was stagnant for a long time, and to open China, which had shut itself up until several years ago, to the rest of the world economically.

To achieve this objective, China is taking the following measures, among others:

- Reforming the planning system to enable all sectors of the economy and industrial and other enterprises to operate with greater power of decision;
- Encouraging the responsibility system, which enables the peasants to farm the land on a household basis under contracts signed with the communes for delivering and selling a set amount of farm produce to the communes and the state while disposing of the remainder on their own;
- Reforming the pricing system to make prices match the value of commodities and thus stimulate production and a commodity economy;
- Separating government and business functions so that industrial and other enterprises will be able to operate independently as economic entities free from undue administrative restrictions;
- Reforming the wage system so that better workers get higher pay to encourage initiative and enthusiasm in production and other business operations; and
- Implementing further the policy of opening China to the rest of the world and broadening the scope of economic and technological cooperation with overseas interests.

The net effect is expected to be a livelier economy growing more rapidly than ever, greater prosperity for the country and higher living standards for the people.

While remaining socialist in nature, the Chinese economy will be able to operate along lines conducive not only to the country's development but to its economic relations with overseas interests as well. This is naturally of great interest to the outside world and especially to the people of Hong Kong who are concerned about their own well-being when Hong Kong is returned to China in 1997.

A review of the Sino-British negotiations over the future of Hong Kong shows that they were relatively easy insofar as the return of sovereignty to China was concerned.

Hong Kong and the adjacent Kowloon and New Territories have always been part of Chinese territory. Hong Kong and Kowloon fell under British rule in 1842 and the New Territories were leased by force in 1898 for 99 years. It is, therefore, an indisputable fact that China is fully entitled, legally and morally, to recover its sovereignty in the Hong Kong area.

The more difficult part of the negotiations lay in finding the best possible ways to maintain the prosperity and stability of this important commercial and monetary center after it is returned to China.

Hong Kong has grown into a fairly developed area because of its ideal geographic location and natural conditions, the hard work of the local Chinese residents, the enormous assistance from the mainland in terms of labor and material supplies, as well as the influx of funds, technology and managerial experience from the West.

While sharp contrasts between the rich

continued on page 7

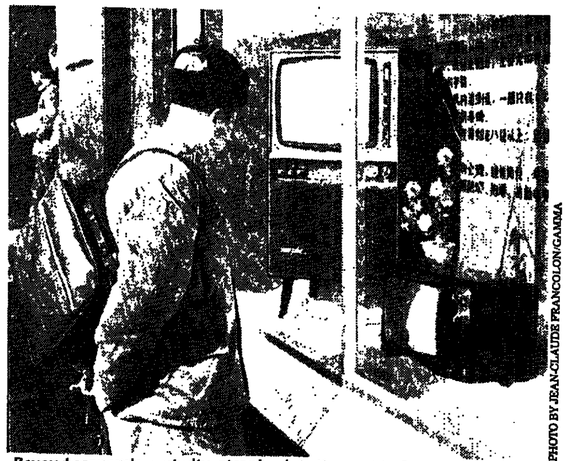

PHOTO BY JEAN-CLAUDE FRANCOLON/GAMMA

Beyond economic austerity: stepping into the world of consumer goods.

Yao Yilin, China's Vice-Premier in charge of economic reforms, met with WorldPaper editors in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing last October, at the time that China's economic reforms were announced.

Here are excerpts of the interview:

"There are many problems in building socialism, such as that of ownership. Ownership can be personal, by the state or collective. But ownership is not always in conformity with the right to use it. A store can be state-owned, but that doesn't necessarily mean it will be state-run. It can be run by the state, by a collective that leases it from the state, or one capable person could be selected to run it. All three methods are socialist."

* * *

"Our common goal is to make all the people rich. Poverty cannot be regarded as socialism. But it is impossible to make one billion Chinese rich at the same time. There will be differences in how fast different areas become rich. The same applies to people: some will get richer faster than others. Under capitalism, the rich exploit the others. We are trying to avoid this, trying to get the rich to help the poor. This is socialism."

...poses new test in Eastern Europe

By Silviu Brucan
Associate Editor in Eastern Europe

BUCHAREST, Romania—With Hungary, Bulgaria and, at the other end of the socialist spectrum, China, having embarked on radical economic reforms with startling results in agriculture, the cutting edge of the issue confronting all socialist countries is market mechanisms. How to integrate market mechanisms in the central plan while keeping market forces under control, and how to achieve this without altering the basic political structure—these are the questions Communist governments will have to wrestle with for the rest of this decade.

Eastern Europe last year saw the forces of change push forward new reform measures while the opponents of change fought fiercely a rear-guard battle.

In Hungary, after months of debate and wavering, the Communist Party's Central Committee resolved to consolidate its economic reforms further by adopting new ways of selecting factory managers. Signaling once more that economic transformation must be accompanied by sociopolitical measures ensuring participation by workers, the new law provides that managers of large firms be chosen by factory councils made up of workers, management representatives, and party and trade union delegates.

Factory councils will now decide on investments, wages and prices, besides determining production strategy. At small companies, general managers will be elected by employees and only managers of large firms adjudged to be "of state interest" (such as defense and public services) will continue to be appointed by government ministers.

In Poland, economic reform is a flop precisely because workers' participation is lacking and central bureaucrats are in a position to undermine every step toward decentralization.

Bulgaria, which follows the path of market reform, has decided to reduce the central economic apparatus to a minimum in an effort to avoid "parallelism and overlapping" Last September, party leader Todor Jivkov acknowledged for the first time that the actual level of socialization of the means of production no longer requires centralization in the management of the national economy. The state can delegate to industries the right to use certain means of production. Those industries may set their production targets independently and make decisions concerning prices and wages, keeping in

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Whither Hong Kong?

Colony braces for dual system concept

By Ron Alpe
Special to WorldPaper

HONG KONG—The dateline will read "Hong Kong SAR, China" in about 12 years from now. From July 1, 1997, this small but dynamic territory will be just a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic.

But how will both sides adjust?

Ten years ago, as China reeled from the excesses of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, peaceful absorption of Hong Kong would have been unthinkable. But in the late 1970's China, under the redoubtable octogenarian Deng Xiaoping, launched a program of economic expansion powered by some capitalist ideas that would not have looked out of place in Hong Kong.

In its last years as a British Crown colony, Hong Kong will continue to watch the expansion with an eye to the main change mixed with apprehension over how much of its own economic dynamism it can maintain as Communist rule looms. The inevitability that sovereignty would revert to China sooner or later, for better or for worse, has long been accepted here. The draft agreement hammered out in two years of hard negotiations by the British colonialists and the new masters in Beijing has for the most part been received positively in Hong Kong.

The main reservation is the question mark over Deng's successor and whether there will at some stage be a resurgence of the leftists. Deng's government is old and Mao's Red Guards are still young.

Hong Kong people have never had much say in their own affairs beyond very parochial politics and were virtually ignored during the Sino-British talks. Amid the ballyhoo when the draft agreement was unveiled, some still small voices here squeaked: "What if we don't like it?" The choice, they were told, is a Chinese takeover with the agreement or without it.

However, Hong Kong was at least invited to express its views on the fait accompli. An Assessment Office was established and people from all walks of Hong Kong life were invited to express their opinions. Submissions totaled 3,557.

Doubts and skepticism about the agreement centered mainly on matters of nationality, the possibility of conscription being introduced and the stationing of People's Liberation Army troops in Hong Kong after 1997. But questions were also raised about the feasibility of what China is calling the "one country, two systems" plan. Chinese-style socialism and freewheeling Hong Kong capitalism certainly seem strange bedfellows.

But the People's Republic is changing fast, in thought if not always in deed. Recent reports in the official Chinese press underline the new mentality. The English-language "China Daily" has splashed headlines such as "Thousands of peasants prosper in gold rush" and "Enterprising trio quit state jobs to aid modernization." Private enterprise is no longer taboo, profit no more a dirty word.

Prospects of a rags-to-riches fairy tale, however, remain limited in China and the flow of illegal immigrants into Hong Kong seeking a better life is still a problem for the overpopulated territory. A basic shift from agriculture to industry, an industrial revolution some 150 years too late, will not be enough to lift China into the 20th century in time to greet the 21st.

The new, open policy may strike many Chinese as painfully reminiscent of the "open-door policy" forced on old China, but in a recent lecture Gu Mu, a member of the Communist Party Central Committee's Secretariat, explained the fundamental differences between the two. In the 19th century, he said, foreign imperialists opened China's doors with ships and guns, and imposed a series of unequal treaties on the Chinese people. Today, however, China invites foreigners to invest or do business to invigorate its own economy. This is essentially based on equality, mutual respect and mutual benefits.

The phrase "unequal treaties" has passed Communist Chinese lips many times in the run-up to the agreement on Hong Kong's future. When those treaties were signed last century, tens of thousands of Chinese were besotted by opium peddled by British traders. Diplomacy was conducted with the aid of Western gunboats—so they may have a point!

Many China watchers feel the People's Republic had no great economic interest in absorbing Hong Kong, which acts perfectly as its financier, shop window and valued customer under British rule. It was more a matter of "face" and a chance to show recalcitrant Taiwan the shape of things (possibly) to come.

The draft agreement promises that Hong Kong can retain its present social and economic freedoms for 50 years beyond 1997, in which time China could presumably have made up considerable ground economically and socially, assuming current policies live on in the post-Deng era. But many Doubting Thomases feel the Beijing government will not be able to resist the temptation to interfere with Hong Kong affairs in the years up to 2047. The most vociferous of the antis has been a pressure group calling itself the Hong Kong Observers, which described the Assessment Office as a farce.

The office made a poor start when it neglected to give guarantees that any submissions would be and remain confidential. So the initial response was slow, undoubtedly reflecting fears in the tiny colony of Big Brother to the North. Many Hong Kong citizens are refugees from post-Revolutionary China and have a clear, sometimes first-hand knowledge of how unpredictable the Dragon can be.

But confidence, the main ingredient in Hong Kong's economic melting pot, has certainly increased since the draft agreement was made public. One of the most reliable barometers, the Hang Seng index of leading stocks, has risen sharply and prices at land auctions also show some signs of improving. The Hong Kong dollar exchange rate also has improved after a spell of weakness.

Like China, Hong Kong is aware of a need to make changes to its status quo in the run-up to 1997. Moves are afoot to introduce elected government to replace the appointees who currently run the colony. The theory is that Hong Kong has little hope of being run democratically under the Chinese unless it becomes more democratic in its last years under the British.

A member of the Legislative Council (Legco) and a leading banker, Bill Brown says a ministerial system will inevitably evolve in Hong Kong. The immediate proposal is for an increasing number of Legco members to be voted in by electoral college and by "functional constituencies" comprised of members of certain specific interest groups. The number of official members of Legco and those appointed by the Governor would be correspondingly reduced.

Hong Kong tries to find its way into the new political reality.

Reassurances about China's behavior towards Hong Kong were given recently by Li Chu-wen, vice director of the official Xinhua (New China) News agency in a speech to the consular corps of Hong Kong. He admitted that the socialist modernization program in China will have to traverse a long historical period and will involve various forms of economic ownership and ways of management. But, he said: "The capitalist system prevailing in Hong Kong will be less of a kind of incongruity with the socialist system in the mainland of China, but more of a necessary supplement to it."

Amid the skepticism some optimists believe the fusion of Hong Kong and China might not only work well for both sides but also set an example to the rest of the world. Leading Hong Kong industrialist Lord Kadoorie said: "Hong Kong is well suited as the testing ground (of the "one country, two systems" idea). When history proves the success of this concept, it will provide the world with a mechanism for better international understanding—a point of contact between two vastly different ideologies."

Ron Alpe, a former Reuters correspondent, is a freelance writer in Hong Kong.

'I feel China is to be feared'

But Mr. Cheng will stay

By Paul Keegan
Assistant Editor

HONG KONG—Talking with Robert Cheng seems at times like talking with two different people.

The native of mainland China who fled to Hong Kong with his parents 33 years ago uses hushed, pensive tones when he says, "As a businessman, I feel China is to be feared."

But only moments later, the successful entrepreneur approaching a comfortable early retirement emerges. Leaning back in his squeaky swivel chair, he seems to accept the British colony's return to China with peaceful resignation: "Everybody has to die and you face death when you reach a certain age."

Though surely not all of Hong Kong's businessmen are aging quite as gracefully, Cheng's ambivalent reaction is shared by many people here as Chinese businessmen in the world's most famous capitalist entrepot nervously wait to be ruled by their motherland, the largest Communist country on earth.

Cheng, who runs a small manufacturing company in Hong Kong's New Territories, was born in Cheng-tu in China's Szechwan Province 53 years ago. He says he does not have any doubts about the sincerity of Chairman Deng Xiaoping, whose government agreed to allow Hong Kong to retain its economic freedom for 50 years after Britain's lease on the colony expires in 1997.

"But who will be the next leader?" asks Cheng. "In China, whoever is the leader can change the whole system to his wish. We do not have a guarantee that our freedom will be preserved."

Cheng was in college in Canada in 1951 when he decided to go to Hong Kong to join his parents, who had fled from their home in Shanghai during China's civil war. He says the turbulence in China over the last 50 years—the Communist ascendancy to power in 1949, the Cultural Revolution of the mid-1960's and the changes in top government leadership in the last 10 years, does not encourage a sanguine view of the 50-year Sino-British agreement.

"Ten years ago, nobody could have imagined what is happening in China today," he says. "There is no constitutional guarantee of anything in China. It can be changed overnight, from black to white."

Curiously, however, such skepticism about the Chinese government's ability to sustain its current policies is not affecting the way Cheng does business. "This is a very exciting time for the Hong Kong businessman if he thinks on the right track."

He says he still invests in new equipment when he needs it, and is not looking for possible escape routes from Hong Kong. "We keep our facilities up to date. A machine that is five years old is out of date already. In Hong Kong, it makes sense to invest in new equipment that yields returns quite fast in a few years. And we still have 12 years left (before the British lease runs out)."

As to the possibility of relocating his business, Cheng says: "There are two kinds of people in Hong Kong. One is the super-rich and they have invested all over the world. When the situation gets bad, they can just pull out whatever they can. They will be rich men for the next two or three generations. So they don't worry about it. The other kind of people is like us. We have no choice. We cannot be competitive in California or go to British Columbia."

Cheng, who also heads engineering and trading companies that design and sell the machine tools, plastic molding and toy parts churned out by his Cheong Tak Manufacturing Co. Ltd., has about 100 employees in all and annual revenue of about US$2 million.

Foreigners represent only about 10 percent of total investment in Hong Kong, and it is local Chinese businesses like Cheng's that account for most of the wealth here. And these local Chinese seem to be staying put, despite the fact that most of them share Cheng's doubts about whether Beijing will stick to its side of the agreement, according to a recent poll by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

Cheng says he knows of businessmen who moved out of Hong Kong in the wake of riots ignited by the Cultural Revolution and found no place as hospitable to business as Hong Kong. "They tried and reduced their facilities here. They tried to go to British Columbia or California, opened shops there and bought land. But when they started work, they found it didn't look right. So they lost money, sold their land and came back to Hong Kong. They found they could make more money here.

"More than 30 years ago, my family came to Hong Kong and started from scratch," says Cheng, who eventually took over his father's small trading company before striking out on his own. "Most of us here have made a good life for ourselves. We feel we've already gained something, you see, and if we had been stuck in China, we would have gone through all the miseries for the last 30 years.

"Now everybody has a little bit of money stashed away, I would think, and even if they have to leave Hong Kong for some other place, they still will be comfortable for the rest of their lives."

During the nervous period before the British and Chinese governments reached their agreement, Cheng says, very few businessmen moved out of Hong Kong. Since then, agitated feelings have settled down considerably.

"People today are just thinking they will make as much money as possible in the next 12 years and they hope China will be stable in the future."

Cheng says he agrees with the 77 percent of the respondents to the Hong Kong newspaper's poll who thought the agreement was not very good but the best that could be expected under the circumstances. "There is no ideal treaty," he says. "The ideal treaty is to leave Hong Kong as it is or make it better than it is—give us more freedom.

"In Hong Kong, we don't have democracy. We do not elect our own government. But we enjoy all the freedoms of anyone in any Western countries. In a Communist state, it's different—it's an ideology and they use force to form a system like that. It's very unnatural. Capitalism somehow has formed naturally through the ages. Personally, I think communism is an experiment, and in the past 30 years China has made many mistakes because the experiment doesn't work."

Cheng says he hopes common sense will prevail in Beijing. "Any man who is sensible, in his right mind, would keep Hong Kong the way it is. It would be most stupid if China killed the goose that lays the golden egg. China would be the laughing stock of the world. The Soviet Union is very unhappy because it doesn't have a Hong Kong."

PHOTOS BY PAUL KEEGAN

Robert Cheng hopes common sense will prevail.

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Third World capitalism

In Peru, economy is 'underground'

By Carlos Rangel
Associate Editor in South America

CARACAS, Venezuela—The original argument for socialism was that it could improve society from one day to the next. All you had to do was to eliminate private ownership of the means of production. Then the economy would soar, the state would begin to whither away and pure *comunismo* ("To each according to one's need, from each according to one's ability") would be a short way down the road.

Because this has not happened (and many countries remain locked in the socialist phase), a new implicit argument has arisen: most of the world's people are unable to adapt to a free market economy. Socialism may be an inferior way, after all, but for them it is the best available thing. Life in Cuba or Vietnam may be nasty and brutish, but at least it is not as short as in Honduras or the Philippines, since (supposedly) everyone has, if not freedom, at least 1,200 calories a day and free medical care.

Yet the apparent lack of entrepreneurial skills in Third World men and women may not be as deeply rooted as it is thought. It could be the effect of artificial impediments to the natural ingenuity and ambition of all human beings, in each case comparable to the feudal remnants that Karl Marx detected and denounced in Germany in his youth, and that kept the German nation in a state of rural backwardness.

This is no mere speculation. Lima, the capital of Peru, is a chaotic city of five million, at first sight as hopeless and messy a Third World city as you may find. But, wait. Look again. It is not Zurich, but it is not Calcutta either. No one is dying of hunger, lying naked on the sidewalk. And this is happening despite government statistics showing that 70 percent of the working age population is unemployed.

Now, a two-year, privately-funded study of Lima's economy has yielded the clue to this riddle. All those "unemployed" work diligently and productively. They turn out an astonishing two-thirds of all the goods and services demanded by Lima's millions (mostly themselves). For instance, most new housing, three-fourths of all public transportation (at ten US cents a ride, and at a profit), and nearly all shoes and clothing worn by the populace (again themselves).

All this is accomplished under the guidance of Adam Smith's "invisible hand," with each entrepreneur benefiting the whole community while seeking his private profit. Every aspect of this huge operation is strictly illegal, for the simple reason that it would be impossible to carry it out in compliance with the maze of Peruvian laws and local ordinances.

A flourishing, unchecked economy.

The practical effect of these regulations would be similar to that of sixteenth-century Spanish colonial edicts that forbade non-whites from engaging in commerce.

The Lima study is having a great impact among Latin American economists, journalists and scholars, so much so that its director, Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto, will lead a seminar early this year in Caracas to explain in detail his findings and their implications. The people who conceived, designed and carried out the study have established a private foundation for the express purpose of unearthing the "underground economy."

Actually this is a misnomer, since there are a few things more visible in Lima than the throngs of sidewalk vendors, the multicolored, privately-owned and -operated buses, or the squatters' houses, which are not only wood and tin shacks but more often than not masonry structures with plumbing and electricity. Factories must be more or less hidden, for the sake of appearances (though everybody knows about them) and they must be broken up into units of no more than 15 or 20 workers each.

Lima's underground market pays up to 20 percent of its gross product in bribes to petty officials. With no access to regular credit sources, it has to go to "underground" banks, but these charge much higher rates than the legal ones. And there is also the ever present possibility that an official higher up will demand a back-crushing payment—if he is corrupt—or will crack down whimsically on wildcat free enterprises—if he is legal-minded.

The Peruvian government has a policy of pretending not to notice what's going on. When the undetground economy is taken into account, Peru's per capita income reaches US$1,300, well above the official figure of under US$1,000. An all-out effort to crush the humble entrepreneurs would sink Peru.

But why then don't they go above ground? Because it is impossible. As part of its two-year research, the Democracia y Libertad Institute, which conceived and carried out the study, actually started a small enterprise and went through the legal procedures indispensable to get it going. It meant overcoming 600 different obstacles over a period of six months, paying innumerable bribes and collecting a sheaf of papers over 30 yards long, if pasted end to end.

Nobody who already isn't "somebody" can go into business legally in Peru, a situation widely prevalent all over Latin America and elsewhere in the Third World. This means that in Third World countries the "above ground" private entrepreneurial sector is really neither a part nor a pillar of a truly free economy but an integral part of the archaic power structure, more interested in profiting from political connections than in competition.

'The above-ground private sector is really neither a part nor a pillar of a truly free economy.'

Of those countries it can be said that maybe the only free enterprise competitive capitalism they know is that of peasants who have moved to the cities to improve their lives and those of their children, and have indeed thrived in urban areas by becoming producers and tradesmen. They operate outside the law but within the strict unwritten codes of business conduct enforced by self-interest and by the threat of ostracism if they don't keep their word.

And therein, and not in an at least premature socialism, lies the hope of the Third World. Just as in Marx's Germany, the true revolution in these countries would be one that removes the bureaucratic pre-capitalist superstructure stifling the energy, ingenuity and ambition of individuals—those universal human qualities in which both Adam Smith and Karl Marx saw the key to economic take-off.

Carlos Rangel is a news columnist and co-anchor of a daily television interview show in Caracas.

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Eastern Europe

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mind only the main objectives of the state plan.

With little foreign debt and an aggressive strategy for technological progress, Bulgaria is a showcase of a centrally planned economy with market relations in agriculture and consumer goods industries. Its record is almost one-and-a-half tons of grain per capita.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union—with a grain crop estimated at 180 million tons, compared with a state plan target of 240 million tons—is recording its sixth poor harvest in a row. The real dimension of the problem can be measured against the long-standing target of 1980, scientifically calculated in the early 1960s at 302 million tons.

A question thus arises: what's the use of setting state plan targets in agriculture? Obviously, the law of value regulates production and no administrative measure can replace or suppress it. Hungary and Bulgaria have long renounced such Stalinist methods and the result is shown in the table on the right.

One could have expected last October's plenary session of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee to draw the proper conclusions. Instead, the emphasis again was on extensive growth—plans to expand the arable area through a program requiring huge investments. This is reminiscent of Nikita Khrushchev's scheme to bring under cultivation 13 million hectares of virgin and fallow land that failed to increase Soviet grain output significantly. Agricultural investments already eat up more than 30 percent of total investments without producing any marked result.

The point is that food, however vital for the population, is not the main reason that drives reformers in the East. Grain and meat can still be imported and the Soviets have the means to do this because of its earnings from massive oil and gas exports.

Something much more fundamental, something of strategic importance for the system, is at stake—the economic-technological competition with capitalism. The late Soviet President Yuri Andropov was aware, and said it rather bluntly more than once, that the Stalinist planning and management system, effective in overcoming underdevelopment, is now totally inadequate to cope with a rapidly changing industrial technology.

In fact, the rigid, overcentralized planning mechanism hampers technological progress and discourages innovation. As a result, ever since the scientific-technological revolution modernized industry, the economic gap with the West has been widening. From 1955 to 1980, the East-West gap increased dramatically in absolute terms, and not even the most conservative leader in the Kremlin can disregard such a fundamental aspect of the problem.

Average 1980 Production

Per hectare	USSR	Hungary	Bulgaria
Grains (quintals)	16.0	41.6	35.4
Meat (kg)	56.4	144.0	88.9
Vegetables (kg)	103.0	167.0	185.0
Fruits (kg)	55.1	238.0	217.0

Of course, the USSR has a much more complex system than, say, Hungary. Moreover, in proceeding with the restructuring of the Soviet economy, the Kremlin will always have to keep in mind the strategic position of a global power and the need for a safe international environment. Therefore, change will have to be very cautious and slow.

The modest experiment in decentralization, initiated by Andropov and put into effect on Jan. 1 last year, involved enterprises in five key industrial ministries. The number of directives from the state planning agency, Gosplan, was sharply reduced, and factory managers were given the freedom to produce new commodities from waste products and raw materials allotted to them, provided they first fulfill their output quotas. Profits from these new ventures are to be retained by the enterprises and used either for further investments or for bonuses and social services for the work force.

Although the Soviet media in 1984 was less outspoken on matters of reform than it probably should have been, reports in the Romanian press disclosed excellent results of the experiment. The Politburo, without waiting for an overall assessment of the experiment at the end of last year, decided to expand its scope on a national scale. Probably, the feeling that this is not enough to make the economic mechanism capable of adjusting itself to rapid technological change, prompted the Politburo to set up a commission to study ways of improving management and economic efficiency.

Silviu Brucan is former editor of the Romanian newspaper Scinteia.

China

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and the poor do exist in Hong Kong, it is also true that the average living standards there are somewhat higher than those on the mainland. It is only natural that Hong Kong residents would worry about a possible lowering of their living standards after 1997. For them, the fear that loss of prosperity might upset the stability of Hong Kong is an even more serious source of anxiety.

To make sure that no such thing happens, the Chinese government has proposed the concept of "one country, two systems" and formulated a set of special policies for solving this problem. These include establishing a Special Administrative Region with a high degree of autonomy in Hong Kong, maintaining its capitalist system for 50 years, preserving its status as an international commercial center and free port after 1997.

Viewed in this context, China's current economic reforms will be yet another factor contributing to Hong Kong's future stability and prosperity.

A number of Chinese trade and financial institutions, including the Bank of China, China Resources Co. Ltd., China International Trust and Investment Corp. and Everbright Industrial Corp., which are now operating in a much more flexible manner than before, are increasing investments and intensifying business in Hong Kong. With production growing tremendously, factories and villages on the mainland are now able to supply Hong Kong with more and more export items. The general improvement in China's economic situation has helped restore and strengthen the confidence of local residents and overseas interests in Hong Kong's future.

Zhou Lifang is director of China Features based in Beijing.

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Is the bomb our best hope?

By Cecil Foster
Special to WorldPaper

TORONTO—While millions of people around the world worry about the nuclear bomb, a Canadian professor says it is not all that bad after all, precisely because it makes people worry.

True, the bomb could destroy the world, but now it is unifying people—rich and poor, capitalists and communists—with fear of total destruction, says Dr. Derrick de Kerckhove, the 40-year-old co-director of the McLuhan Program in Culture at the University of Toronto.

Fear of the bomb will lead to a new world, with people at peace with themselves and their environment, de Kerckhove says. By forcing people to unite, the bomb and its sister technologies, electricity and the media, will succeed where institutions like the United Nations have failed.

Critics have accused de Kerckhove of inducing mass psychic-numbing from the bomb and of trying to derail the peace movement. But he contends that the numbing is over and people are now looking at films like "The Day After," which dramatizes the terrible impact of a nuclear war. On his desk lies a thick folder of letters from around the world, from researchers and retired military officers, endorsing his unconventional views.

Belgian-born de Kerckhove holds two doctorates in literature and sociology, and teaches at the University of Toronto. He says the greatest influence on his life was the late media and culture guru Marshall McLuhan, who "confused the hell out of me" with the argument that all technologies change human behavior. Today, he continues the research started by McLuhan, who coined "The media is the message."

In an interview with WorldPaper, de Kerckhove expounds on his ideas:

WorldPaper: What do you think of the nuclear bomb?
De Kerckhove: It is a technology, and as a technology, it has an impact on social forms and our way of being. There isn't a single technology in the history of mankind that has not affected in one way or the other, and in some cases very deeply, the organizational, social and psychological attitudes of people who have used it. And whether you are talking about the wheel or the alphabet or the nuclear bomb, you are talking about a new human interaction, new forms of thought, new emotions and generally new experiences.

The difference between the bomb and other technologies is that because it is the first technology that can destroy the planet, it is also the first that can unite it. That is the paradox of the bomb.

WP: How did this paradox come about?
De Kerckhove: The Western world has been leading the rest of the planet in technological development. It has forced the rest of the planet to develop according to patterns that were set by the Western world, in particular the United States. A process of unification in technological terms was already under way from the moment the Industrial Revolution began. Today, the real question is: to what extent is the technology colonizing the rest of the world?

The biggest of all colonizing principles right now is the atomic bomb, and you might want to ask yourself whether there has ever been any need for the atomic bomb in countries like China or India. You might want to ask yourself if without the pressure of immolation from other countries there would be any need for Britain or France to have the atom bomb or H-bomb. There is nothing in China that demands that one day they will build the bomb. The most extraordinary aspect of the Chinese situation is that they invented gunpowder, but it was not used for hostile or aggressive attitudes in China. It was used very quickly for hostile, aggressive attitudes in the West.

The West is aggressive in every way. The way of solving problems in the West is through aggression. Technology is an aggressive approach to problems. And so it is not surprising that the West would take an invention like gunpowder, turn it into its own mode of solving problems, such as conflicts among countries, and eventually move from there to the creation of more and more sophisticated, more and more lethal weapons down to the atom bomb.

The origin of the bomb is found in atomic physics. No other countries except the Western ones have felt the need to break down matter into its smallest component, which is what atom means, and then to rebuild matter on the basis of the textbook, so to speak. Other cultures have considered the earth as organic, stayed in touch with all the senses and dealt with it in a dialogue, an interaction. But the Western world has dealt with it as dead matter that can be manipulated and changed.

WP: How does this happen?
De Kerckhove: It is the alphabet that makes the Western world. There is no other bond between the various cultures. It is not a question of color or race. It is a very specific question: how does the alphabet change your brain? It totally modifies your brain. Only one kind of alphabet can do it and that is the phonetic alphabet with vowel sounds—the only system of writing that allows you to reach without knowing the language beforehand, in other words, of being capable of taking everything completely out of context. It is a mindless system. It becomes like a computer program. The computer does not understand what it is doing, yet it can do some of the most sophisticated things in the world. It is a very rigid, strict, perfectly organized code that enables you to play around with structures.

That is what the whole Western world is based on—the possibility of rewiring your brain because of a system that has no meaning. That gives us a technical drive to begin with. We deal with information technically before we deal with it humanly or emotionally or interactively. First, break it down into patterns. It is not surprising that grammar was born with the phonetic alphabet. The order of sentences became much more important than meaning. Eventually the order of logic, which is an order of meaning, introduced itself.

Something happened to our brain that made us Western people—very aggressive and technical. And that something is the breaking down of human sounds into their smallest units. So the breaking down of human information into their smallest units was applied to matter and the atom bomb was created.

WP: Because of the bomb, there are protests and peace marches around the world. What do you think of them?
De Kerckhove: They are all the same thing. In fact, they are all trans-political, trans-party lines. They go beyond (national) boundaries. They attempt to bring a new sense of responsibility. Certainly they have as a gathering point the presence of the bomb.

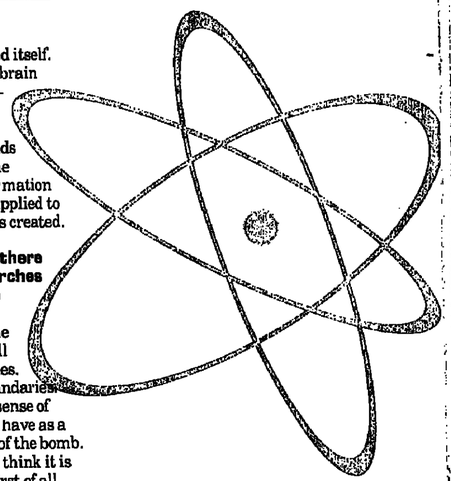
As an observer of culture, I think it is too early for disarmament. First of all, they (peace marchers) should take full advantage of the presence of the bomb to unite us before we get rid of the problem and get back to our own little wars. The cause of disarmament is a good one to unite people, but the effects today are premature. The whole technology has not matured. Imagine if we had not invented the H-bomb but only the A-bomb. It would be a total disaster. We would be using the damn thing because it is limited. The reason we can't use the A-bomb is because we have the H-bomb, which is 1,000 times more powerful.

WP: How are we evolving in the face of the bomb?
De Kerckhove: You need the pressure. Nobody is going to work without being hungry. No planet is going to unite without having some sort of powerful motivation and you need that fear in the background. We are not mature yet, but we are maturing fast. We are a planet in growth. We are at the beginning of the planetary story, not at the end. I see (the future planet) as a complex single body with a great variety of parts, functions and dialogues.

Cecil Foster, a former Reuters correspondent in the Caribbean, is a staff member of The Globe and Mail in Toronto.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEHAL

"Because (the bomb) is the first technology that can destroy the planet, it is also the first that can unite it."



US message to Moscow

Confrontation, Si; Contadora, No

PHOTO BY UPI/BETTMANN ARCHIVE

Representatives of the Contadora group countries present their plans to the press at the United Nations.

By Patricia Derian
Associate Editor at Large

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Reagan administration's holdup of the Contadora peace process in Central America would be perplexing if anyone, anywhere, believed that the United States wished to bring immediate peace to the region.

The US government has put forth a short list of objections to the draft treaty. But it complains most bitterly about protecting its "right of access." This means military access, the right of the United States to move its forces into the area when it believes that its security is threatened.

All governments are concerned about their security and the stability of their regions, but in this case the argument is phony. Article 11 of the Organization of American States (OAS) Treaty and the Rio Pact make specific provisions for just such action. Indeed the recent invasion of Grenada, no matter how one may feel about the event itself, demonstrates that the mechanism is in place and working. All of Washington's huffing and blowing is simply a stalling tactic.

The four Latin American nations that form the Contadora Group—Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama—want a negotiated peace and guarantees of stability. The Reagan administration's basic goals in Central America are somewhat different. While it has no philosophical objections to peace now, such a peace would have to satisfy two US requirements: (1) win the war in El Salvador, and (2) bring the Nicaraguan government to its knees. These two objectives have less to do with El Salvador and Nicaragua than they do with the Soviet Union.

From former Secretary of State Alexander Haig's first press conference, at the onset of the Reagan years, Washington has demonstrated by word and deed that it has only one foreign policy string. It is the Soviet string, and all other foreign policy questions and actions evolve from it.

The continuation of the Salvadoran war until a military victory is achieved, the rout of the Nicaraguan government, the establishment of Honduran bases, the effort to persuade Costa Rica to build an army and the invasion of Grenada are all elements in a basic message to Moscow: the United States is tough, determined, ready and willing to fight to protect its interests. It has selected Central America because it wants the Soviets to understand that the US defines its turf and its interests, and is not afraid to sponsor overt and covert wars or to stage a direct invasion to work its will. In other words, look out, Moscow, you have met your match.

The air is, however, full of messages. To the citizens of the United States the Reagan administration soothingly says it supports the Contadora process. Its only objection, it says, is to specific segments of a draft treaty on which the US is working with the Contadora countries.

As masters of the stall themselves, Latins read the qualifiers for what they are. And they must feel anxious and discouraged that US dollars, personnel and activities are all over Central America. The message to Moscow often seems more menacing to them than to the Soviets.

Any hope that the US election might bring new policies or mark some point of maturation of the victorious Reagan team has proved to be empty. Reagan salesmen offer up the rhetoric that they wish only to promote democracy in Central America. Proclamations that there is no direct US military engagement in the region, that the handful of American military personnel are only providing training for self-defense (plus development and humanitarian assistance), are met with judicious little nods of understanding and assent elsewhere in the world. The reality, however, is a steady buildup of the US military presence throughout the region.

It is unlikely that the Reaganites are people of wicked intentions. It is quite likely that they honestly believe the actions that they undertake will secure just peace and further democracy throughout the world. After four years of experience, only the public explanations and justifications for US actions in Central America have changed.

What's new is the tenacious Contadora process which has been more than an irritant to the US. It has put the Reagan administration in the awkward position of trying to seem to work with other democracies toward the same goal, while still in hot pursuit of its own singular aims. Instead of keeping only its own ball in the air, it must now juggle the aims and objectives tossed up by other nations. And these are other nations which have, at a minimun, equally valid standing and interests.

Having definite proposals thrust upon it, Washington is faced with a chilling worst-case possibility: peace might be made without US consent. It could be dangerous for other nations in the area to take such a bold step, but it might not seem as risky as the present drift towards regional war.

Patricia Derian, now a journalist working out of the US capital, was Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights during the Carter administration.

Trying to open a new road to peace

THE ARMED conflict in Central America—in its several subdivisions—has been going on for several years now. Two years ago this January, after months of growing tension and escalating military activity, four Latin American countries decided to launch a concerted diplomatic effort in the hope of bringing peace to the region. They were spurred to action by the widespread alarm that while the conflicts were intensifying, no peace initiative had reached the bargaining table.

All four countries—Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama—had by then been individually involved, in one way or another, in the various ill-fated diplomatic and political attempts to bring the parties in the regional conflict to a common ground. But when representatives of the four governments met in the Panamanian island of Contadora and issued a new call for negotiations in the region, it spelled a radical change.

For the first time a major move towards a comprehensive peace negotiation in the region has been undertaken without direct US participation. But, at the same time, the countries involved couldn't be accused of blatant anti-US bias, because two of them—Mexico and Venezuela—are close Washington allies, sharing common political and ideological goals.

So it was that the Reagan administration suddenly was faced with a delicate diplomatic situation for which its previous clear-cut anti-communist approach was not the ideal tool. And as recent developments show, two years after the installation of the Contadora group, the US government hasn't developed the flexible attitude called for if a real peace negotiation is to take place.

January, 1983—The foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama hold a three-day meeting at Contadora to discuss new regional initiatives to promote peace in Central America.

May, 1983—The United Nations Security Council unanimously approves a resolution supporting the Contadora group in its effort to negotiate peace in Central America. The United States supports the resolution after an implied condemnation of US policy in the region is deleted.

July, 1983—The presidents of the four Contadora countries meet in Mexico and call for international border patrols, the removal of foreign military bases and advisers from Central America, and an end to arms shipments into the area.

August, 1983—While visiting Mexico, President Reagan is warned by his Mexican counterpart, Miguel de là Madrid, that the US "show of force" threatens to "touch off a conflagration" in the region.

September, 1983—The Contadora group holds its seventh session in Panama and comes up with a 21-point plan, which is signed by all five Central American nations.

October, 1983—Nicaragua presents treaty proposals within the framework of the 21-point plan and agrees to international mechanisms of verification.

November, 1983—Nicaragua presents peace proposals to the Contadora group, including "the withdrawal of all foreign military advisers from Nicaragua" and "the halt of arms buildup if the other Central American countries do the same."

March-May, 1984—Over 100 technical advisers and diplomats of the Contadora countries work on the draft of a new, broad proposal.

September, 1984—On the 7th, the Contadora group releases a document, which they insist is balanced, not only calling for an end to the military actions but also presenting some long-term solutions to regional problems: emphasis on the electoral process, programs of amnesty for political opponents and strengthening of regional economic institutions.

—On the 21st, Nicaragua makes a surprise diplomatic move, announcing it has accepted the treaty as presented, even before the other Central American countries have voiced their positions.

October, 1984—Pressed by the United States, which feels the proposal has too many loopholes and is biased in favor of Nicaragua, the three Central American US friends—El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica—meet in Honduras and voice their reservations. Guatemala's foreign minister also attend the meeting but does not endorse the reservations. The proposed changes will eliminate the prohibition against US military exercises in the region and change the composition of the suggested international verification commission by including in it the five countries in the region.

November, 1984—Washington announces it will resume talks with the Nicaraguan government in the hope of advancing the stalled Contadora peace negotiations. No date is given for their resumption.

Reagan worries Asian groups

He's seen as out of touch

By Mochtar Lubis
Associate Editor in Southeast Asia

JAKARTA, Indonesia—With President Ronald Reagan in the White House for a second term, the United States will continue to show its face as a superpower, one with increasingly less human features.

In the developing societies, billions of people are struggling just to survive, and all are reaching for a more humane existence based on dignity and freedom. This has been the thrust of the times since World War II, which broke the force of the old imperialist powers around the world. However, US global military, political and economic interests drive many American administrations, including Reagan's, to make unholy alliances with dictatorial regimes.

PHOTO BY JOEN HOAGLAND/GAMMA

At the root of the anti-US protests in the Third World, like in Colombia (above), is Reagan's identification with oppressive regimes.

Reagan is popular with many authoritarian governments in Asia, but much less so among the opposition groups and individuals critical of their government or society. In the Philippines, for instance, anti-US or anti-Reagan sentiments have been expressed through mass demonstrations against President Ferdinand Marcos, whose regime is seen to have drawn strong support from the Reagan administration.

Almost the same perception is shared by many other opposition groups in such countries as South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and even Japan. But Reagan's identification with oppressive regimes is not limited to Asia alone. Such an impression is created among critical observers in a number of countries in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

Another perception about Reagan is that he tends to wave America's big stick—its military, especially nuclear, power. Under his administration, the United States seems to be waging a new cold war, which at times breaks out into raging wars. Many in Southeast Asia worry about this, especially after Reagan some time ago expressed his belief that a nuclear war was winnable. His faux pas while testing a sound system, in which he jokingly threatened the Soviet Union with nuclear obliteration, assumed a serious tone for many, who felt that he said what was really in his heart.

Reagan is regarded in Southeast Asia as a kind of super-American patriot, who would be willing to sacrifice any other nation to keep the United States alive and well and No. 1 in everything. His indifference to human rights issues around the world gives rise to the impression that he is too old to be in tune with what is really happening at the grassroots in many societies in the world.

Mochtar Lubis is a newspaper editor in Indonesia.

RAMPAGE

On 26th July 1984 C.G.R. mocked the mood of the "Street," predicting that "the market will erupt on the upside, vaporizing prophets of doom".

Within days the Bull rampaged, with the DOW escalating 87 points. Once again, the law of contrary reason triumphed. Even now, scores of analysts are bearish, divining a spastic downside correction. Despite the disclaimers of sages, we believe the DJI will vault over 1500, with periodic sell-offs which present "Power-Elitists" and perceptive investors classic opportunities to soak up value at a discount, as they did when we recommended automobile equities during their nadirs. As "the revolution of rising expectations" accelerates, East and West will blend, an alloy creating 24 hour-a-day trading in stocks as well as commodities. The revolution will have distortions: witness the American political conventions, circuses that mirror the observation that "politics is the madness of the many for the gain of a few". One thesis did emerge from the ritualistic nonsense of the conventions: both Parties respect the entrepreneur, that curious chap who reflects what a philosopher has called "the Western malady, the creative revolt of the individual against the species".

Our forthcoming letter highlights two low-priced corporations that are being molded by "creators" of the calibre who spawned shares that escalated to fiscal prominence, as did prior "special situations" that realized major upside gains. Past performance cannot insure current success; however what is vital is that our researchers refuse to be seduced by the "consensus".

The Crowd is perenially off course; witness the fact that in the summer of 1982 when the Dow was drooping under 800 C.G.R. predicted that the "DOW WILL TOUCH 1,000 BEFORE HITTING 750". An observation that time sustained.

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Currents

Facing starvation

African farmers go back to self-sufficiency

By Hilary Ng'weno
Associate Editor in Sub-Sahara Africa

NAIROBI, Kenya—A quarter of a century ago, when African countries became independent nations, African leaders thought the future of their continent lay in rapid, preferably heavy industrialization. It was the surest way to catch up with the rest of the world, and Africans looked with justifiable suspicion upon experts, particularly from the West, who advised them to stick to agriculture. Agriculture meant, for many Africans, the perpetuation of a system which condemned African nations to the disadvantages of being providers of raw materials to the world market, a reminder of the old colonial systems that held sway over the continent for decades.

Unfortunately for Africa, industrialization never took off. The reasons are many, but all of them now seem totally irrelevant in the face of the widespread hunger and famine gripping the continent. Many leaders now wish that they had paid more attention to agriculture in the years since independence, for the ravages of the famine that has been sweeping across the length and breadth of Africa have brought home the grim consequences of this neglect.

Even potentially wealthy nations like Nigeria, which had thought that an abundance of oil might justify neglect of agriculture, have discovered that self-sufficiency in food is of strategic importance in the life of a nation. Rather belatedly, probably too late for many African nations, frantic efforts are now being made to reverse the downward trend of agricultural production in Africa, even as desperate measures are being taken on the domestic and international front to cope with the death and misery wrought every day by famine and drought.

The long-term answer is, like everywhere else in the world, to pay the farmer better. Most of the problems of agriculture in Africa have to do with poor returns on investment by the farmer or bad price signals to farmers in those countries where governments have attempted to use market forces to prod the farmer into greater productivity.

Paying the farmer more, however, entails greater expenditures by the national governments of Africa at a time when the national coffers are being depleted through high levels of imports (most of them non-essential goods) and falling revenues from exports (most expected to come from farmers, in the first place). Without excess funds in the national treasuries to pay more to the farmer, the national governments, which through the proliferation of the so-called produce marketing boards are the biggest buyers of farm produce in Africa, have had only one other option open to them—to remove subsidies of food sold in urban areas. This is something most governments have hitherto been very loathe to do, and for good reason.

In Sudan, Tunisia and Morocco, riots recently occurred, in some cases leading to loss of life, when governments tried to pass on to urban populations the cost of producing the food the city and town dwellers eat. These "IMF food riots" (so-called because they follow the International Monetary Fund's prescriptions for removal of food subsidies) have in the past discouraged many governments from attempting badly needed agricultural reforms. Most governments simply considered the price too high to pay. Now they are discovering that the price that has to be paid for lack of action is even higher.

With millions of Africans—not only in Ethiopia—facing starvation, African governments are gradually moving towards reducing the artificial subsidies which have depressed agricultural production in many countries. Tanzania recently almost doubled the price of some essential food commodities in order to be able to pay the country's farmers more and spur them on to higher productivity. Similar steps have been taken in neighboring Zambia. And Kenya has been raising producer (and consumer) prices frequently for similar reasons.

There continues to be strong resistance in urban areas against consumer price increases on foodstuffs. African workers don't like such increases unless they are accompanied by pay raises. Employers don't like the increases because they give workers an excuse to press for better pay. Indeed, the only group of people who press for price increases are farmers. And invariably, in most African countries, they are the least organized in terms of exerting pressure upon the urban-based political machinery.

The one pressure they can bring to bear on the political system of any country is to opt out of production. And they are doing precisely this in some countries where the pricing or payment structures for cash crops are not remunerative enough. In some countries farmers are uprooting coffee trees and planting maize and beans instead. They are opting out of the modern cash economy and going back to subsistence agriculture.

In the eyes of their governments, the World Bank, the IMF and Africa's other donor friends overseas, this is a dangerously retrograde move. But for the farmers it is the only way of ensuring survival and sending a desperate message to the authorities that something drastic needs to be done about agriculture in Africa. And as the terrible spectacle of human misery in Ethiopia and elsewhere in Africa currently attests, it is a message which African governments can continue to ignore only at their own peril and that of their nations.

Hilary Ng'weno is editor-in-chief of the Weekly Review, published in Nairobi.

What's ahead

"In 15 or 20 years, I believe Africa will again be feeding itself. We will look back at Africa's first generation of independence as an inevitable passage of political teething, economic trial and error and climatic extremes which temporarily disrupted the productive capacities of Africa's greatest source of wealth: its peasant farmers."—C. Payne Lucas, executive director of Africare, November, 1984.

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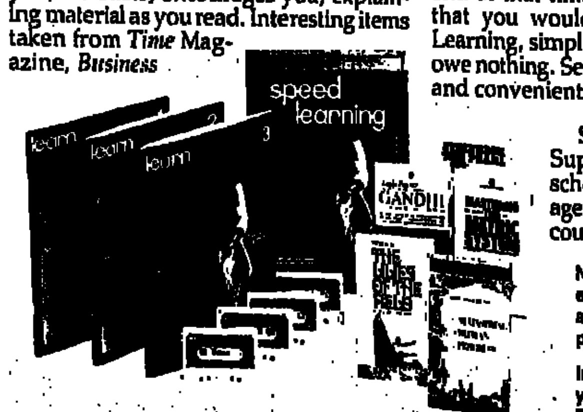

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Review

Bottled racism

A slick flick can't hide its true colors

[Editor's note: In the last couple of years, a South African movie has been capturing the attention of audiences in cities as distinct as Paris, Tokyo, São Paulo and Wellington. But while some see it as a hilarious metaphor about the craziness of the "civilized" world, for others it is nothing but a sour spoof. WorldPaper asked South African poet-in-exile Bheki Langa to review the movie.]

By Bheki Langa
Special to WorldPaper

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The South African movie, "The Gods Must Be Crazy," justly deserves the pickets it has generated in places such as Boston and New York City. For, in spite of its artistic pretensions and sometimes breathtaking photography, this film cannot gloss over its highly patronizing tone as well as its racist and sexist attitude.

Taking off from a scene showing an aircraft dropping an empty Coca-Cola bottle near the homestead of a San family—referred to by the pejorative name "Bushmen"—the movie narrates, through an omniscent voice, how this incident disrupts the peaceful, nomadic life of these "gentle people" who eke out a hard existence somewhere in the Kalahari desert of Botswana, a black-ruled independent country in southern Africa.

The overvoice clearly states early in the movie that these innocents have never had the ill fortune of an encounter with either whites or their artifacts. But this doesn't prevent the unmistakably white male voice from presuming to know their feelings or from understanding their loudly articulated, but never translated, language.

Initially adapted by the San family to serve useful functions, such as corn-grinding and music-making, the bottle soon becomes an instrument of discord that results in some family members coming to blows. It also provokes hitherto unknown individualistic and antisocial behavior, particularly among the children. And despite attempts by the family's eldest male to mediate the negative influences of what is by now described by the narrator as an evil force dropped by the gods, fighting continues, this time aided by a meddling baboon ("the most inquisitive animal in Africa") which, like the narrator, miraculously understands the San language.

The view that the highly nomadic San people have been completely isolated either from African or European cultures is anthropologically and historically false. Their foodgathering and hunting lives have periodically, and sometimes brutally, intersected with those of other non-San cultures since the mid-1700s, when a protracted and highly advertised genocide campaign was first undertaken by the Dutch and, subsequently, by British settler governments.

In any case, when the San elder fails to get rid of the bottle—he tries first to bury it and then to throw it back into the air—he sets out on a long journey to give the strange dropping back to the gods, represented here by a white female character, Kate.

Juxtaposed with his travails, a large set of characters is introduced, all making his mission even more complicated: brutal, corrupt and inept Angolan and Botswanan black government officials; maniacal counterrevolutionary army officers; fire-stomping rhinoceros; a lustful but comically inept white microbiologist specializing in wildlife droppings; a helpless and fragile white female teacher on her first tour of Botswana who, despite her best efforts, is unable to keep most of her clothes on; plus a whole collage of subplots, all helping to achieve a kaleidoscopic effect that seems to fight against any clear thematic focus. Somehow, all the plots and characters converge in a crazy kidnapping scheme concocted by a *contra* leader.

Most of the symbols, stereotypes and caricatures are obvious: money-crazed African government officials with a fleet of redundant Mercedes-Benzes; scary-eyed, grinning, petty black officials who either shuffle along aimlessly or move spastically, like in the old racist movies made in the US during the 1930s and 1940s; soldiers who are better at shooting banana trees than the intended target; etc., etc. But there are more subtle forms of racist chauvinism. When, for example, rural scenes are mixed with urban shots of Johannesburg, there are no signs, visible or assumed, of racial segregation or any other repressive situation black South Africans face daily. On the contrary, black and white workers are portrayed in harmonious working relations, both under the stress of the unforgiving clock. This linear and simplistic portrayal of African cultures and politics not only detracts from South Africa's destabilizing military and political support to counterrevolutionary movements in countries such as Angola and Mozambique, but it also diverts attention from the most anti-democratic, brutal and fascist state in the continent, South Africa.

But the most subtle is the use of humor. In the old racist movies, black characters were unabashedly the butt of the joke and the clowns. In "The Gods Must Be Crazy," the writer, Jamie Uys, by creating the silly character of Andrew Stein, the microbiologist, tries to give the impression that since we can laugh at the white characters, the black characters are also fair game. But despite the side-splitting laughter of the predominantly white audience at the movie theatre where I saw the film, as a black South African, I found nothing amusing in it.

There is a romantic longing in the movie for a return to the childlike innocence and plaintive life represented by the San elder, along with a disdain for the Western-acculturated Africans. For, although the San elder experiences harsh realities—such as a prison term at the hands of Western-educated Africans and such complex technological products as telescopes and motor vehicles—he continues, apparently unscathed and undaunted, in his pursuit to divest himself of the bottle that represents a corrupting Western influence. He finally discards the object near a steep precipice which he believes, we are told, to be the end of the earth.

Within the movie's structure and political context one cannot help but see metaphors that, were it not for the racist climate engendered by the Reagan administration, would otherwise appear anachronistic in today's world. The suggestion that happiness for the black people lies in an idyllic, nomadic and desert-like life is cynical in light of the South African regime's intensified expulsion of millions of black Africans to overcrowded, poor and arid reservations, and also in light of the regime's use of the Kalahari San people as scouts to track down SWAPO freedom fighters who are trying to end South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia.

Further, the impression is created that black integration in the political economy of South Africa is futile and sterile since the white people seem unhappy with their lot. Certainly, these views are irreconciliable with the ones espoused by the majority of South Africans, and are at the heart of the struggle for empowerment by black South Africa.

No amount of slick advertising, safari scenes or camera tricks can paint a rosy picture out of a painful reality. Jamie Uys has, therefore, created symbols and hypotheses that entrench his class interests, assuage his guilt and give an uncertain comfort to his worst fears.

No wonder, then, that Uys, besides failing to integrate the various voices in the film, didn't let his main character speak with his own voice. He probably knows what the character would say and is afraid of what he might hear.

Bheki Langa, a South African poet and playwright, teaches writing at Mount Saint Mary's College in Maryland, USA.

Again, it's noble savage versus evil civilization. And again the solution to this "conflict" is a patronizing one.

Readers' reactions echo international concerns

Since its inaugural issue six years ago this month, WorldPaper has provided a view of the world that emphasizes its diversity. Our reader mail shows that the world, in turn, views us with the same wide range of perspectives—from humorous to sober, from critical to laudatory. As we read, the problems and perspectives of the world become vivid in a deeply personal way.

The yearning of young people who cannot afford an education comes through in the letter from 17-year-old Hirohini Fernando of Sri Lanka, who asks for WorldPaper readers to sponsor her for three years of nursing school in Pakistan. J. Sinnathamby is a 34-year-old Ceylonese who does not have formal education in mind, but is "interested to know of the vast and varied parts of the world in my short life span." Since "I do not feel that I can achieve my ambition merely by reading or film-going," Sinnathamby hopes a mention in WorldPaper will "catch the eye of some interested kind-hearted gentleman who could offer me short-term work on (his) farm or building construction or any other business undertaking...(to) help me fulfill my long desire." An author plugging his book writes to warn us of "the world's greatest menace to progress." G.H. De Zoysa of Sri Lanka says astrology has a "crippling grip on society through superstitious beliefs." The title of the book: "Seeing Stars."

One concerned writer calls for the creation of a World Starvation Fund—"let each worker in all countries make a day's wages and feed the starving nations in the world," especially the "poor Africans starving." Another writer from Washington, D.C., who searches for the missing "control factor" to free humankind from its endless cycle of war and peace, sees the only alternative to either U.S. or Soviet world domination as a "missing World Statesman deserving support of the citizens of planet earth."

A mysterious letter addressed to Khun Sulak Sivaraksa in care of WorldPaper begins poetically: "Dear Brother: We are sitting by a klong in Amsterdam, staring at the light from the street lamp like lotus leaves reflected in the canal. We are all here—all exiles, all, like you, in prison. 'Life is always like a prison sentence,' Khun Anan says, reminding us what you taught us. You told us to be detached. We cannot."

Editorial comments on WorldPaper are also varied. Rustom Patel, president of an international manufacturing agents company in Pakistan, does not understand why WorldPaper is not carried in India and takes us to task for listing our host newspaper, "The Star," of Pakistan under "Middle East," instead of the "Far East" as the U.S. State Department does.

William O'Neill Sweeny, executive director of the International Advertising Association in New York, writes to congratulate WorldPaper for being "interesting, intelligent and annoying," especially for a recent feature on philosopher Ivan Illich. "I have worked around him for years," Sweeny says. "I find him brilliant and insightful, foolish and vain, astonishingly articulate and maddeningly woolly."

WorldPaper also receives requests ranging from writing jobs to copies of every back issue since publication began in January, 1979. One reader wishes us good luck and "fervently hope(s)" that WorldPaper can be carried in every country of the world by the year 1988. His generous suggestion that WorldPaper publish its own success story featuring a profile of its founder who "could be considered as a great benefactor of mankind" becomes slightly effusive when he goes on to suggest that a "portrait and the biographical sketch could be printed separately for the benefit of those readers of WorldPaper who wish to get it framed."

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A defiant portrayal of human connections

GALLERIES are dark, the mood is pensive and ors are doing as much reading as gazing at the special exhibit in New York's Museum of Modern

xhibit, entitled "Primitivism," is a positive por- f the connection between different schools of mod- —impressionist, cubist, surrealist and others— ditional forms of tribal art and sculpture from Africa, Oceania and the Americas.

an exhibit juxtaposing the masterpieces of such as Gaugin, Picasso, Klee, Modigliani, Max Ernst n Jackson Pollock with tribal masks and sculp- om the Zulu and the Eskimos, from New Guinea pon, from New Hebrides, New Ireland and the ssas Islands, crafted by anonymous artists.

onnection between the two groups, long noted in circles, has never been more definitely or defi- rawn than it is in this exhibit sponsored by Morris Inc. that has been on display at the mu- nce September.

inting on textile by Paul Klee entitled "Mask of , for instance, hung alongside a hauntingly simi- ure of a Zuni Indian war god from New Mexico. iginal Zuni work in this case is not present be- he museum explains, the Indians regard it as sac- s to be shown in public.)

Mask of Fear was painted in 1932, just before me to power," reads the explanation. "Nazi bul- ncluding the SS with their jagged lightning bolt , were already prowling the streets. What could logical at such a moment than Klee's recollection ar god crested by a zigzag arrow (which for the resented a lightning bolt)?"

thibit draws a careful line between direct artistic ces" of the primitives on painters like Gauguin so in some of his later works, and the "affini- imilar artistic impulses arising in Western and tists without any conscious knowledge of each also draws some fascinating distinctions be- he motivations of the "primitive" and modern their work.

uality of fierceness, for instance, is apparent in rime examples of both tribal and modern art. fierceness, the exhibit explains, tends to be col- nd outer-directed in primitive art—to ward off example—whereas it often reflects an artist's , psychological state in the modern form.

mparisons and parallels are, after all, fascinat- derscoring the sentiment of "family of man."

This is not a Picasso.

"Nothing in Western or Eastern art prepared modern artists for the otherness of tribal art," reads one of the ubiquitous explanations. "Yet they were moved by it, and we are too, precisely because we see something of ourselves in it—a part of ourselves that Western culture has been unwilling to admit, not to say image, before the twentieth century."

The remarkable exhibit is slated only for US museums in the cities of Detroit and Dallas after closing in mid-January in New York. But it has drawn lots of attention and reviews internationally, as the crowds of European and South American museum goers evident among the throngs of New Yorkers attest.

ot an African mask.

And now, our whale report:

The opposition of Japan to the International Whaling Comission's moratorium on the hunting of all sperm whales—and the involvement of the US in pressuring Japan—has captured a full quota of world whale headlines in recent months. But there are other things happening in the world of leviathan, and other threats, almost as insidious as the fatal one.

This tale comes from a chance encounter in an airplane with Mr. Brent Wursig, a marine biologist from Hanover, West Germany, who has studied dolphins in Argentina, New Zealand and Hawaii, and is now completing a five-year study of the more obscure bowhead whale for the US government.

Some 3,000 of this species, which has not been formally hunted except by Eskimos since 1911, remain, doing most of their feeding during the summertime and early fall, in the Beaufort Sea north of Alaska. This some area is believed to have substantial oil deposits. US and Canadian seismologists have been combing the sea using underwater pinging devices which produce some of the loudest sounds known by man, to chart the ocean floor and interpolate where the oil might be.

Scientist Wursig has been tracking the whales' behavior to see how they might have been affected. His study is inconclusive, He has, he says, seen squads of up to 12 feeding whales moving in echelon formation broken up by the pinging of a ship several kilometers away. The feeding packs have, he reports, been "disoriented." But ever the careful scientist, he adds that "there's not as much effect perhaps as there could be or as I might have expected."

Five years and several million dollars of US government funds later, certainly a case of no news is good news for the bowhead whale.

A plan for a nuclear hotline

The Aspen Institute, headquartered in New York City, is one of those organizations that undertakes serious, substantive studies of the human condition around the world. It is elitist, meritorious and idealistic. It's latest effort reflects all these qualities: a proposal signed by 29 leaders of ten countries for a policy of "sustained engagement" as a way to manage the East-West conflict.

The statement, four years in the making, was signed by former Prime Ministers James Callaghan and Edward Heath of Great Britain, Pierre Trudeau of Canada and former Chancellors Helmut Schmidt of West Germany and Bruno Kreisky of Austria. The US signers included former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. The statement itself was fresher than the names attached. "Let us speak plainly," it reads. "We do not expect the grand antagonism between East and West to end. The Soviet Union is both a country and a cause..."

Taking off from this point, the panel advocates the withdrawal of battlefield nuclear weapons on both sides in Europe and increased efforts at arms control across the board. More original is the call for a high level panel of US and Soviet representatives holding confidential meetings to discuss mutual issues, but not negotiate them, and a network of crisis control centers linking the capitals of all nuclear states, as the Washington-Moscow hot line now operates.

In the words of one of the panel members, John J. McCloy, the West needs "a philosophy of interdependence" to "challenge the Soviet Union to positive action."

On surprises, visas and bribes

●A company director acquaintance from Venezuela, told that imaginative street crime had become a big menace and preoccupation for people in Brazil, laughed before he cried. His own secretary, he recounted, had been telephoned recently by someone impersonating his wife with the news of an important surprise party for the boss, and asking that the company provide some spirits for the occasion. The secretary, taken in by the refined Spanish and sensitive to instructions to keep the party a surprise, organized six full cases of Johnny Walker scotch whiskey for a car pickup. The party never took place—at least not the party planned.

●In an efficiency move by the US Customs Service over the last several years, US citizens can now walk directly through US immigration lines, showing only their passports, while non-Americans are carefully screened for visas. The announcement to travellers arriving in Miami or New York directly from South America is "US citizens please go to the right, all others straight ahead." One wonders if the directions are reversed when a Democratic president takes office.

●And finally this true story from an evening with several international businessmen. The topic was bribery and corruption. Two men, representing prominent American companies, insisted that they did not play that game and had clear, written instructions to all their overseas operations and affiliates to that end. But one had to tell this story on himself. He had recently dispatched a new booklet of guidelines on how to avoid bribes to his officers in an unnamed Latin American country. The booklet got hung up in customs. The local company people, told it was a priority item, paid under the table to get it out.

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A glance at the graph will tell you what a new study by a leading independent researcher, Market Facts, Inc., just told us: That Forbes is preferred reading by more corporate officers in 1,000 of America's largest service and industrial companies. In comparison with Fortune and Business Week, Forbes was judged to be overall favorite by 44%, versus 29% for Business Week and 19% for Fortune.

When regular readers were asked which of the three reflects best the excitement of business, Forbes had twice the scores of the other two. And when asked which of the three stands for "free enterprise," 71% named Forbes, compared with 13% for Fortune and 7% for Business Week.

These results confirm surveys done over the past fifteen years showing that more officers in big business read Forbes regularly than either Fortune or Business Week.

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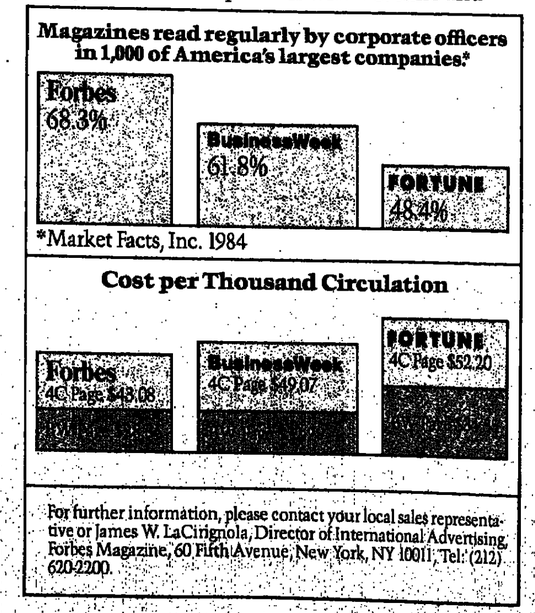

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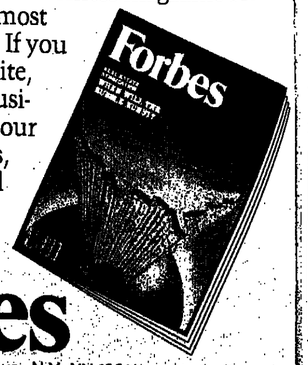

Forbes

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$30 million World Bank loan to Jordan

JORDAN IS expanding the water supply and sewerage services in an area within Greater Amman. By 1989 nearly all 900,000 residents in the project area will have access to these services, which currently cover only about 67 percent of the population. Some 150,000 poor people will benefit.

The World Bank is providing a loan of $30 million to support the project.

Greater Amman, an area within a 25-kilometer radius from the city centre, covers the municipality of Amman, 11 other municipalities, and some small villages. By the year 2000 its current population of about 1.5 million is projected to increase to about 3 million.

The project will construct about 350 kilometers of the sewage system in the area. It will also lessen the pollution to groundwater by reducing the filtering of effluents from cesspools within Greater Amman. By 1989 only 45 percent of the residents in the area will be served by cesspools, compared to 60 percent today.

Sewage treatment works will be carried out in the drainage zones for the suburban areas of Baqa'a Valley and Wadi es Seer. Waste water will be recycled and used for agriculture. The water distribution system will be rehabilitated or extended to improve the supply and to reduce water losses.

Technical assistance will be provided to further develop the Water Authority of Jordan. Financial procedures will be established to help the Authority to achieve self-sufficiency in its finances through adequate water and sewerage charges.

The project is expected to be completed by 1989 at a cost of $56 million. The loan from the World Bank will finance about 53 per cent of the cost. And the Government of Jordan is making a budgetary outlay for the remainder.

The World Bank loan is for 15 years including three years' grace, with a variable interest rate, currently 9.29 percent, linked to the cost of the Bank's borrowings. It also carries an annual commitment charge of 0.75 percent on undisbursed balance and a front end fee of 0.25 percent on the amount of the loan.

(World Bank release)

Dollar strengthens; gold falls

LONDON (AP) — The US dollar, buoyed by figures showing a booming American economy despite the prospect of further Central Bank intervention, gold prices fell off.

On Tuesday, the Commerce Department announced that Gross National Product sliped. Dealers said this news attracted new buyers to the US.

As word of the GNP figures swept the markets Monday, Central Banks in Europe intervened to stop the dollar boom. Market sources in Frankfurt said the West German Bundesbank sold nearly $100 million on the open market, with a collection of other European Central Banks unloading a total of 250-300 million more.

Ministers of the world's top five industrial democracies — the United States, West Germany, France, Britain and Japan — met in Washington last week and agreed on an intervention policy.

The dollar began Wednesday with a marginal decline in Tokyo, finishing at 254.13 Yen. In London, it was quoted at 254.05 Yen.

Against other currencies in Europe, the dollar was quoted Wednesday at:

— 3.1728 West German Marks, up from 3.1680 late Tuesday
— 2.6740 Swiss Francs, up from 2.6682
— 9.7095 French Francs, up from 9.6945
— 3.5845 Dutch Guilders, up from 3.5800
— 1,948.50 Italian Lire, up from 1,946.25
— 1.32385 Canadian dollars, down from 1,32400

In London, the British pound was quoted at 1.1198 dollars, compared with 1,1242 Tuesday. Sterling's fall was accelerated by rumours that Opec would soon announce a cut in its official crude oil price. Falling oil prices reduce Britain's income from its North Sea oil fields.

Gold, meanwhile, weakened as the dollar gained. The metal opened in London at a bid price of 302.15 compared to late Tuesday's 306.75. The city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of 302.15 dollars.

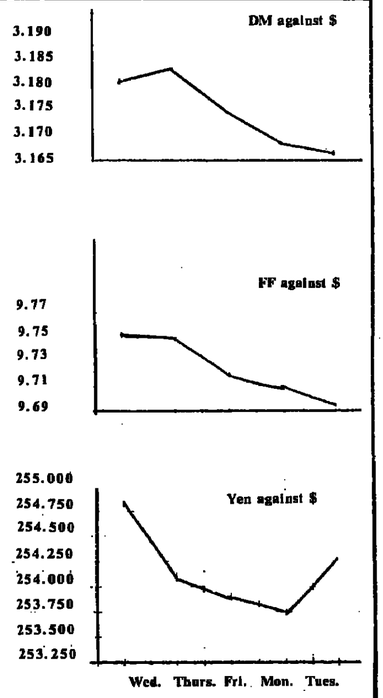
In Zurich, the bid price was $301.80 down from 307.50 late Tuesday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold fell 3.69 to close at a bid 303.83.

In New York Tuesday, gold fell 4.40 to close at 303.50. The silver was quoted in London Wednesday at a bid price of 6.08 dollars a troy ounce, down from Tuesday's 6.245.

Foreign Currency

Days Currency	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Mon.	Tues.
DM	3.1818	3.1825	3.1750	3.1690	3.1680
FF	9.7535	9.7525	9.7245	9.7100	9.6945
Yen	254.80	254.10	253.950	253.50	254.250

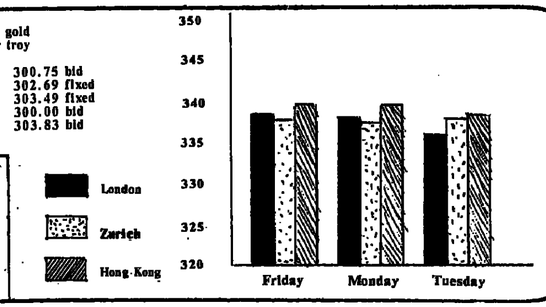


Gold

LONDON (AP) — Late gold prices (in US dollars per troy ounce):

London	300.75 bid
Paris	302.69 fixed
Frankfurt	303.49 fixed
Zurich	300.00 bid
Hong Kong	303.83 bid

Days Markets	Friday	Monday	Wednesday
London	308	307.250	306.90
Zurich	307.500	307.000	307.30
Hong Kong	308.920	308.430	307.520



Jordan Gold in

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Wednesday 23 January 1985 were as follows:

18 ct ... JD 3.100 per gramme.
21 ct ... JD 3.550 per gramme.
24 ct ... JD 4.250 per gramme.
One kilogramme (9999) JD 4066.000
Ounce ... JD 132. 000
Gold Sterling ... JD 29.500 (Central Bank)
Rashadi Pound ... JD 26.000 (seven gramme)

Source: Yousif Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

What Money Earns in Foreign Currencies

Currency Period	US $	DM	FF	SF	DFls	Yen	Sterling Pound
1 M	8 1/8	5 1/2	10 3/8	5 1/4	10 3/8	6 3/16	12 3/16
2 M	8 1/4	5 9/16	10 9/16	5 1/4	10 9/16	6 3/16	12 1/16
3 M	8 3/8	5 11/16	10 3/4	5 1/4	10 3/4	6 3/16	12 1/8
6 M	8 3/4	5 13/16	11	5 1/4	11	6 3/16	12 5/8
9 M	9 1/8	5 7/8	11 1/4	5 1/4	11 1/4	6 3/16	12 3/8
12 M	9 1/2	5 15/16	11 7/16	5 5/16	11 7/16	6 3/16	12 1/4
2 Years	10 5/8	6 1/4	—	—	—	—	—
3 Years	11	6 5/8	—	—	—	—	—
4 Years	11 1/4	6 7/8	—	—	—	—	—
5 Years	11 5/8	7 1/16	—	—	—	—	—

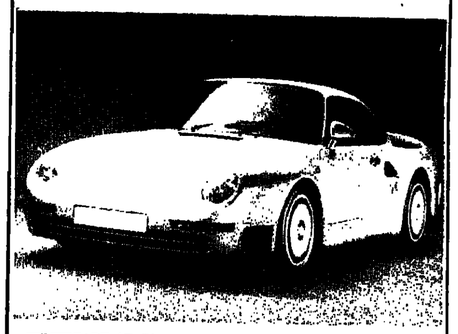
The above rates are those offered on the London interbank market on 22 January, 1985 to prime customers. Commercial banks and Financial companies offer the same rates less a margin of ranging between 1/32 of 1% up to 1/2 of 1%. But it may happen that for large deposits, some banks may take no margin or even offer higher rates than in London. Depending on each institution's needs, margins can change significantly.

This Jerusalem Star — Ad-Dustour survey was carried out with the assistance of Finance and Credit Corporation (Amman) and CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL (CYPRUS).

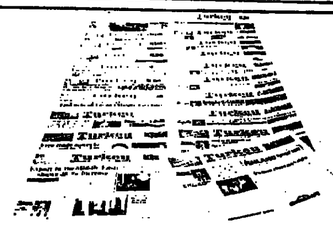
Contracts & Contacts

- SUPPLY OF electrical, water and central heating materials to the Jordanian armed forces (The Royal Maintenance corps). Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 20. Closing date: 16 February, 1985.
- CONSTRUCTION OF three classrooms for the Abu Nsair rural council area. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 10 each. Closing date: 27 January, 1985.
- PRINTING 3500 copies of Yarmouk University annual book 1985. Tender documents are available free of charge from the University office. Closing date: 6 February, 1985.
- CONSTRUCTION OF public park and library in Qwaisma municipality. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 25 each. Closing date: 11 February, 1985.

Motoring: Porsche unveils a new super model



STUTTGART (DaD) — Porsche's new super car is called simply the 959. A small number will be on the market in 1985. The most simple and cheap version will cost 398,000 marks. The 959 is capable of reaching 300 kilometres an hour (about 180 mph) with its 2.85-litre, six-cylinder turbo motor of 400 hp.



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By Robert Poullot
Star Economy Analyst

IT CAME as a real shock when a prominent Kuwaiti banker recently admitted that if his institution operated under American regulations, ninety per cent of the bank's loan portfolio would be considered as slow or non-performing. In other words, the assets of this large institution were either doubtful or were not producing any income.

More surprising still is the case of a large joint venture bank along the Arabian peninsula which is managed by one of the world's greatest international banks with head offices in New York. At the end of 1984, the joint venture bank had at least $125 million worth of non-performing loans which had not yielded any interest income for the last two years. Yet, because the managing director doesn't want to take all the blame and because the foreign partner bank needs all the dividends it can lay its hands on to offset other bad international loans in Latin America, provisions for doubtful debts in 1984 will hardly exceed $14 million.

Those two cases are not exceptional throughout the Middle East. Over the last 2 years, many banks, including very large ones, have suffered greatly from the regional economic recession and loan assets recorded on their books (with the equivalent collateral in land or real estates do not reflect their current true market value. Not that Arab banks are more vulnerable than others around the world. Afterall, their leverage (total liabilities to their respective capital) is very small by international standards and their liquidity is on the average much healthier than the typical North American or European banks.

6 - our wish for 1985 is that banks take full advantage of the poor performance on the local stock markets (the fact that investors are expecting less rewards both in terms of dividends and capital gains) to write off a maximum of their bad loans. The exercise would only follow suit to the general trend pattern which took place in 1979-80 in North America. That is when thousands of companies posting a fairly good profit performance took advantage of the gloomy environment to cut down their fat and make a general clean-up. It caused a lot of hardship in terms of unemployment but it nonetheless, helped to strengthen the economic and business infrastructure for the years ahead. The message was: Better cut a finger today than having to cut the arm tomorrow.

In Jordan (as elsewhere in the Arab world mind you), the move would have a staggering effect on the stock exchange since banks are the most heavily traded public companies. Although painful it might be, such trimmering exercise is nonetheless owned to shareholders who otherwise might find themselves in for worse surprises in 1986 and 1987 if the regional economy doesn't pick up in the meantime.

That leads us to a second very important consideration on the side of the borrowers to edge their foreign currency exposure in the future.

7 - for the Middle East in general, we wish that foreign currency syndicated loans for local borrowers be made in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) involving five currencies (Dollar, Yen, Sterling, Mark and French Franc). A major part of syndicated loans (a big loan shared by several banks vis-a-vis a single borrower) made within the region are denominated in local currencies. But when the loans are in foreign currency, they are usually in US dollars. The 80s have showed that such exposure was harmful due to the strong comeback of the American currency on the foreign exchange markets. With the emergence and greater sophistication on the Euromarkets of multicurrency loan baskets, it is time for local and regional banks to offer a different package reflecting the true dependence of the Middle East on Europe, Japan and North America together.

The rule could not be implemented in a blind way, since each loan or fund requirement is a special case. But the example of Jordan, where the dinar value is pegged to the SDR, could create a trend. It would certainly make more sense for Jordanian borrowers to draw down loans in SDRs rather than in US dollars.

At one point last year, there was talk among banking circles that time might be right to presume borrowing in US dollars since the greenback was expected to depreciate against the SDR. The forecast might have been right, especially according to David Stockman, director of the office of Management and Budget in Washington, but the latest trends show that the greenback has barely lost ground. For the same reasons, issuing syndicated loans in ECU (European Currency Unit) could be dangerous particularly if indeed the US dollar depreciate against most European currencies. So the best option remains with the SDR facilities offering the borrower to pay back in the currency of his choice.

Another possible option worthwhile examining would be to use regional currencies. For example, why couldn't Lebanese pounds be used in an enlarged basket system? Not only is there a lot of excess liquidity in the M Beit Beirut banking market but three Jordanian banks (the Arab Bank, the National bank of Jordan and Bank Al-Mashrek) have branches in Lebanon, not to speak of the Arab Finance Corporation and Petra Bank which have close ties with Beirut. Lebanese banks are all complaining that they have very few lending opportunities in the current war environment, which explains why so many opened branches and affiliates abroad since 1975. So why not recycle those liquidities in neighbouring countries?

While stressing the foreign exchange needs of borrowers, a completely new trend is gradually developing along the Arabian peninsula, which could fit well the requirements of other major trading or corporate groups in the Middle East. It is the emergence of a secondary capital market.

8 - by contrast to money markets which are equivalent to short term (less than a year) deposits or treasury bills, capital market's deal essential with debt instruments of longer maturities. We wish that more businessmen will diversify their cash assets during 1985. Instead of keeping their liquidities as bank deposits with relatively low returns, they would buy capital market instruments and sell them off or borrow against them in case of cash needs. The game can be played in both local and foreign currencies and provide, on top of interest earnings, a capital gain.

In Jordan for example, several bonds are tax-free as far as interest earning is concerned (whereas bank deposits yield taxable interest). Secondly, by doing so, businessmen would diversify their risk exposure towards banks' assets in favour of state-guaranteed paper. Finally, by borrowing against their bonds instead of cashing in their assets, they can deduct their interest from their tax liabilities.

Let's assume that a corporation pays 50 per cent tax on its profit, that a bank deposit will yield 7 per cent while a bond would give a 10 per cent return. For a JD 100,000 bank deposit, the after-tax return would be only 3.5 per cent against 10 per cent for the non-taxable bond. And if the corporation borrows against the bonds, the net after-tax cost of the loan will be nil and even negative. Indeed, the borrower will still earn tax-free JD 10,000 per annum on its bonds but will pay about the same amount on its loan before tax. Once tax is considered, the full expense can be deducted from profits, thus reducing the cost of the loan to only 5 per cent.

Actually, the loan cost nothing since it is more than offset by the earnings on the bonds. Had the corporation borrowed against a simple bank deposit, the net operation would cost after-tax 1.5 per cent interest.

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Violence strains Greek-Arab relations

By Louis Economopoulos

ATHENS, — A recent outbreak of inter-Arab violence in Greece has angered authorities here and introduced strains into relations with Arab regimes.

The Greeks say they have always been sympathetic to the Arabs on Middle East issues, and they cannot understand why Greece has become a battleground for internecine Arab warfare.

Government spokesman Dimitris Maroudas said that "both in the past and more recently," Alternative Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias "made demarches to the Arab envoys here, saying that Greece should be left out of any inter-Arab differences.

Maroudas said the Arab ambassadors replied that 'both they and their governments have the same desire.' The independent Athens daily newspaper Avriani wrote, "We can't understand why certain Arabs continue to settle their differences in our country, turning it into a slaughterhouse."

"Our country has done its utmost to help the Arab world, despite assurances of trade with certain Arab countries that never materialized. We have our own problems to worry about without Arabs battling in our country."

The most recent incident was in mid-December when three unknown gunmen tried to shoot Syrian diplomat Abdullah Yassin, 28, as he walked out of a friend's home in a seaside suburb, police said. He hid behind his vehicle and fired back nine times with his own pistol.

The newspaper Apogevmatini reported that Greek authorities believe Yassin is a Syrian intelligence agent.

On 29 November, police said, Amar Mabruk, 31, holder of a Moroccan passport, allegedly attempted to assassinate the Jordanian Charge d'Affaires in Athens as the diplomat was driving through the suburb of Psychiko.

Mabruk's gun jammed and he escaped on a motorcycle, but was caught the following day in northern Greece trying to cross into Yugoslavia. A public outcry against Arab attacks arose in December when a bomb disposal expert was killed trying to defuse a bomb affixed to an Iraqi embassy car. Police detonated two other bombs placed in embassy automobiles in front of the embassy building.

An organization called "Islamic Action in Iraq" claimed responsibility for the bombs through an anonymous person who telephoned news organizations in Paris.

He said the aim had been to kill three Iraqi diplomats assigned to watch Iraqi dissidents in Europe; the attempt was undertaken by a sub-group, "Martyr Ibrahim Salmane." Salmane was killed trying to place a bomb at the General Security headquarters in Baghdad in 1983.

The Arab ambassadors in Athens expressed their concern over the repeated attacks on Arab embassies and personalities in Greece, and reaffirmed their confidence in the Greek authorities.

A statement issued after a special meeting of the Council of Arab Ambassadors expressed the Council's deep regret for the death of the bomb disposal expert as well as its deep concern over terrorist acts. The Council condemns all such acts, which are directed against the country's security and peaceful life, the statement said.

Two years ago a Jordanian diplomat was assassinated in the centre of Athens and four months before that a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization was gunned down in an Athens suburb.

A Syrian student was shot dead in his Athens apartment on 27 July, 1983; in April 1983 an assassination attempt against the Saudi Arabian ambassador failed; on 21 June last year a Lebanese merchant was shot dead.

(Compass News Features)

Arabic wireless file inaugurated

WASHINGTON (Star) — US Information Agency Director Charles Z Wick 15 January inaugurated the new computerized transmission of the Arabic Wireless File.

The state-of-the-art-system makes USIA the first organization in the world to create, edit, transmit and reproduce Arabic language copy by computer.

The inauguration ceremony, held in the Near East/South Asia Branch of USIA's Press Service, was attended by representatives from Arab embassies, American and Arab media organizations, the company that designed the computer and Agency officials.

The computerized capability is an important development for the Arabic File, increasing both speed and accuracy in sending news stories and textual material to 18 posts in the Middle East and North Africa. Articles are written or translated and edited on the word processor then sent to the Agency's Communication Centre for overseas transmission. This eliminates the tedious process of writing Arabic material longhand then punching it on tape for radio-teletype transmission.

It also does away with the necessity of filing documents on paper, as items can be retrieved from the computer, either to be read on the screen or printed, simply by pushing a few buttons.

Each member of the Arabic language staff has his own terminal, so material can move quickly through the translation, revision and editing process. Since the computer-to-computer file is transmitted via telephone lines, it is received abroad free of the garbles that were a chronic problem of the old radio-teletype transmission.

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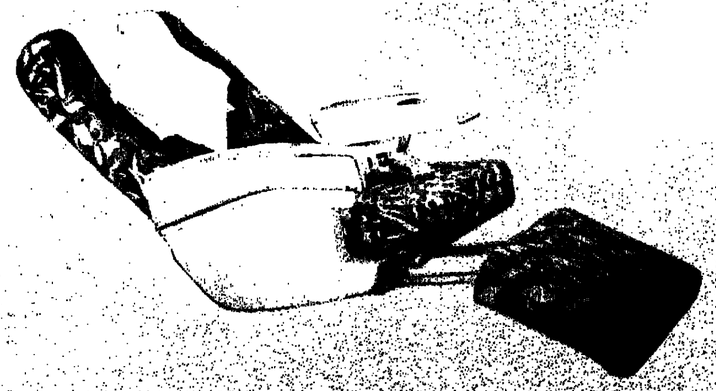

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COMMENTARY

A role for UN troops in S. Lebanon

By Ya'coub Jaber

AFTER ISRAEL has announced its plan for phased withdrawal from South Lebanon, one wonders why there should be a need for any more negotiations between Lebanon and Israel on the withdrawal question. For Israel seems to have finally made up its mind on how to end or minimise its debacle in Lebanon, thus making any more negotiations a waste of time.

Before the Israeli pullback plan was announced, negotiations between the two sides went on for months without any concrete result. The Lebanese, nevertheless, want the negotiations to continue in the hope of detecting some information about Israel's real intentions in an area so exposed to sudden unpleasant developments. The Lebanese government is anxious to avoid the eruption of factional violence and the recurrence of massacres of civilians in the South during a period of political and military chaos.

But are the Israelis willing to let the Lebanese know what is being planned for the South or allow joint co- ordination so that withdrawal could be carried out smoothly and innocent lives be spared?

Judging from past experience and recent events, the Israelis can never be expected to do Lebanon such a humanitarian favour. When they withdrew from the mountainous area near Beirut about two years ago, they did everything they could to provoke fighting among the rival factions; fighting that has left deep scars uneasy to cure and made tens of thousands of Lebanese villagers homeless and refugees in their own homeland.

In recent weeks, Israel spared no effort in trying to abort the Lebanese government's security plan in the tense Kharroub region and along the coastline south of Beirut. Israel wanted to block the deployment of the Lebanese army in those areas to support its claim that the Lebanese regular troops are incapable of ensuring security and therefore some other groups, like the Israeli-created South Lebanese army, should do the job.

The Israelis will keep their real intentions in South Lebanon for themselves because these intentions are subject to sudden changes. Take, for example, the case of Al-Ansar prison camp where hundreds of Palestinians and Lebanese are languishing in arbitrary detention without specific charges or trials.

The camp lies in an area included in the first pullback phase. But an Israeli army officer said last week that Ansar would remain under Israeli control. This gives a clear indication that Israel is not willing to carry out full withdrawal and intends to maintain its occupation of selected strategic parts of South Lebanon.

The main question for Lebanon is how to avoid the breakout of bloody factional violence and ensure the entry of the Lebanese army in the evacuated areas. For the Palestinians, the immediate problem is to prevent massacres in the refugee camps by local right-wing militias and Israeli-backed forces.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has appealed for United Nations help to protect Palestinian refugees in South Lebanon. As a matter of fact, UN help is needed for both the Palestinians and the Lebanese. The presence of about 6,000 UN peacekeeping troops in the region should not be left unused during the forthcoming dangerous period. Those troops are there for keeping peace, and this is exactly what the area needs during and after the Israeli withdrawal. If deployed properly and effectively, UN troops can provide adequate protection for Palestinian refugees and reduce the risks of factional violence.

Middle East Editorial Opinion

THE LONG-DELAYED Arab summit conference and the Israeli plan for phased withdrawal from South Lebanon are among the leading topics in the press this week.

Al-Urooba, a weekly Qatari newspaper, stresses the importance of holding the summit to confront the huge challenges which threaten the pan-Arab national security. It regrets that all calls and appeals to convene the summit have met deaf ears because the Arab nation is in disarray and unable to agree on anything.

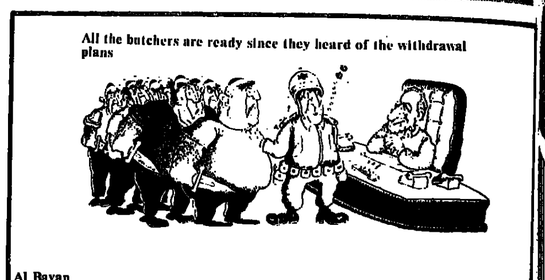
The paper goes on to say that among the newly emerging challenges is the exodus of Ethiopian Jews to Israel and Israeli designs in Lebanon. The situation on the whole, the paper adds, calls for a unified Arab action which can only be agreed upon by an Arab meeting at a summit level.

On the reported US-Soviet contacts, on the Middle East, the Beirut newspaper **Al-Nahar** writes that whatever explanations the US gives regarding these contacts, they still remain a US admission of a Soviet role in the region. "This US-Soviet dialogue means that the Camp David agreements were not the required solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute as attempts to reach separate solutions in Lebanon and on the Jordanian front have failed", **Al-Nahar** remarks.

It goes on to say that the saying that the Soviet Union can block any attempted solution if it was excluded from it is true to a great extent.

The Cairo newspaper, **Al-Ahram**, comments on President Mubarak's recent visit to Greece and his stopover in Rome, saying that the visits were part of Egypt's effort to urge Western Europe to play an effective role in the Middle East peace process. It calls on Arab countries to increase pressure on the European Community states to adopt a positive stand towards the Arab issues during the EEC summit meeting next month.

On the forthcoming visit of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Washington, the Saudi newspaper **Al-Nadwa** stresses the importance of the visit in serving Arab and Muslim causes, especially the Palestinian question which Saudi Arabia insists that it should be solved on the basis of the return of Palestinians to their homeland and the return of Arab Jerusalem.



All the butchers are ready since they heard of the withdrawal plans

Al Bayan

Maariv

On Lebanon, the Bahraini newspaper, **Akhbar Al-Khaleej** sees danger in the Israeli plan for phased withdrawal from South Lebanon. It notes that the announcement of the plan coincides with Israeli moves to block the deployment of the Lebanese army in the tense Kharroub region. It also warns that Israel may be planning to trigger large-scale fighting among rival factions in South Lebanon after the withdrawal.

Al-Arab, a Qatari newspaper, stresses the need that the UN peacekeeping force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL) should be given an effective role in the next stage. This role, the paper adds, includes providing adequate protection for the Palestinians and Lebanese in the South.

It also says that Lebanon wants full liberation of its territory with the whole of South Lebanon placed under the control of the legitimate Beirut government.

Jordanian Press

Ad-Dustour newspaper in Amman comments on the inauguration of President Reagan for a second four-year term, saying that he is the first US President in more than two decades that might stay in office for eight years. "The next four years give Reagan the opportunity to achieve many things in domestic and foreign domains without having to take into account the question of another return to the White House. This gives way for the accomplishments of realistic solutions that can immortalize the US president and places him among great men of history." **Ad-Dustour** remarks.

It goes on to say that it is true that East-West relations should be a top priority for the US administration. But it is also equally true that the explosive situation in the Middle East must also be given priority because keeping the situation unsettled could pose serious hazards against world peace and security.

Al-Ra'i newspaper comments on reports that the US to increase its aid to Israel in 1986 by 400 million dollars, saying that such increase will finance more acts of aggression on the Arabs and will be mainly used to purchase more arms.

"We all know that by giving Israel substantial aid, the US is helping to build a military fortress whose aims and objectives are to carry out invasions and expansion at the expense of Arab states," the paper notes.

The paper also says that it is rather puzzling for us to see Washington announcing a $12.5 million in aid to help resettle Ethiopian Jews and at the same time protests against settling these Jews in the West Bank.

Israeli Press

Zu Haderekh, writing on Israeli withdrawal comments that in three weeks time Israel will start to pullout from South Lebanon under the umbrella of the failure of Naqoura talks which did not actually fail but provided the green light for Israel to take its own decision.

Lebanon might be the only victim in this operation because it cannot claim the liberation of its territory or the achievement of its national unity and political security.

Koteret Rashit says that at the time the Israeli hospitals are suffering from financial hardship and shortage of medicines, the teachers in the north do not receive their salaries on time and while the local authorities complain about not receiving government subsidies, the government has decided to set up six new settlements.

There is no need for six more settlements while 350 apartments in the West Bank settlements are still unoccupied. This large number of vacant apartments represent frozen funds of over $20 million. The decision to set up more settlements at this time is a squandering of national resources.

Kol Hai'r says that the religious Jews seize every opportunity to interfere in every aspect of life in Israel starting from excavations to the autopsy of the Falashas.

The power of the clergy is derived from their political blackmail but, astonishingly, they did not succeed to satisfy their demands from the Likud government despite their ability to topple that government.

Hatsofeh writes that the cabinet has given a five-week period for withdrawal from Sidon area.

By deciding to withdraw, the Israeli government has issued a warning to the Lebanese and Syrians that it will not remain the guardian of peace in the occupied areas leaving its troops subject to assassinations.

Hamodia comments on the economic situation, that it is erroneous to think that inflation could be curbed and reduced through methods far from the basic economic theories. This is not a mere illusion but an economic disaster. The economic problems that existed on the day of signing the package deal are still standing.

Yediot Ahronot suggests that the Israeli unilateral decision to withdraw from South Lebanon had its positive results. The Syrians do not object to the deployment of UNIFIL to the north of Litani river, Naqoura talks will be resumed soon and the political atmospheres look more comfortable.

The Israeli government has granted Beirut and the UN time for co-ordination, and in the meantime warned them that any developments following the Israeli withdrawal will be theirs.

Israel's pullout decision, the paper says, is purely military but may have political impacts. Still our past experiences have taught us that nothing is certain when it comes to Lebanon, it adds.

ew Caledonia's political dilemma

Caledonian leaders: (left to right) Jacques Lafleur, president of the RPCR; Céléné, roving ambassador for FLNKS; Jean-Marie Tjibaou, leader of FLNKS; Ukeiwé, president of RPCR territorial government.

By Frederic Filloux

AEA, New Caledonia — "The conver the sovereignty of New Caledogan at the moment the French flag lanted in our soil and an outside supplanted the sovereignty of the people over their own country."

speaker is Jean-Marie Tjibaou, a ar-old Malanesian and a former Roatholic priest, who today leads the ment claiming immediate indepenfor a socialist New Caledonia.

ence which erupted last 18 Novemthe date of local elections — was sult, Tjibaou claims, of "131 years kness" he says began when France ed New Caledonia on 24 September, His opponents accuse Tjibaou of ical overkill. They also fear his with Libya.

ay a disparate population of 000 inhabits the 7,340 square mile 900 sq km) elongated territory that bout 950 miles (1,500 km) east of alia. No ethnic group is numerically hant.

population consists of 62,000 Malanesians (42.7 per cent of the total), 54,000 Europeans (37.2 per cent) and 12,000 (8.3 per cent) natives of the French islands of Wallis and Futuna, 1,240 miles (2,000 km) east of New Caledonia.

The remaining 11.8 per cent is made up of various ethnic groups: 5,600 Tahitians, 5,300 Indonesians, 2,400 Vietnamese, 1,200 refugees from Vanuatu, the Anglo-French condominium of the New Hebrides which became independent in 1980, and about 3,000 others.

The colonial settlement was a recent one. It began with merchants and traders of various origins who arrived around 1840, followed by Christian missionaries, first Protestant and then Catholic, 30 years later.

The biggest colonial wave had its origins around 1860, when the French government decided to make New Caledonia a penal colony. Common criminals and also Paris Communards of 1871 were transported to the South Pacific territory.

Later the discovery of nickel — a crucial factor in New Caledonia's history — brought a considerable demand for manpower filled by Indonesians, Indians and New Hebrideans. With the Europeans, they formed the remarkable racial mosaic whose destiny was linked to New Caledonia's.

Where did the Melanesians stand amid all this? When the first Europeans arrived, they numbered some 50,000, the descendants of migrants from South-East Asia who lived peacefully on the coasts and plains of the Antipodean island.

The invasion of foreigners pushed them out of the primitive socio-economic system which was slowly developing toward the foothills of the mountains and the arid flatlands. Sporadic rebellions were suppressed by the colonial government, but for nearly a century, anger simmered.

New Caledonia was developed through the exploitation of its nickel deposits, a quarter of the known world reserves. The metal created huge fortunes for mine masters, but little was reinjected into the local economy.

In 1970, at the height of the nickel boom, a member of the island's Territorial Council suggested that it might be beneficial to impose a minimal tax on the lucrative nickel trade, as a precaution against recession. He was labelled a dangerous Marxist.

But not all colonists were rich and thriving. Throughout this period a white and mixed-race peasant class was emerging, descended from the poorest members of the colonizing movement; in a Western country their descendants would be considered working-class.

The Kanaks, as the Melanesians call themselves, watched these developments passively. Prisoners not only of their geographic banishment but also of a collectivist system which deterred individual initiative, they became steadily more isolated from society.

Recent French governments began to usher the Kanaks toward modern civilization, but the elimination of legal discrimination at the turn of the century led only slowly and painfully toward the ending of social inequality.

At the same time, the beginning of the 1960s saw the first moves for autonomy by Melanesians. The development of political divisions, encouraged by metropolitan governments in France, produced a Melanesian minority in favour of independence.

Against it was set the European-based Rally for Caledonia in the Republic party (RPCR), which enjoyed majority support and opposed anything other than limited autonomy. The party is led by New Caledonia's senator in Paris, Dick Ukeiwé, himself a Melanesian.

After the accession of the French Left to power in 1981, the pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), led by Tjibaou, stepped up its pressure, strengthened by the promises of new President Francois Mitterrand.

Last October, 17 Front members travelled to Libya, at Colonel Qadhafi's invitation, apparently for military training. On 4 November, two days after their return, FLNKS spokesman Yewene said, "You will soon have an insight into their training in Tripoli. For now they know how to explode bombs and make Molotov cocktails after their one-month stay in Libya."

This move, organized by hardliner Yann Céléné Uregei, earned the FLNKS repudiation by most of the international community and by other Pacific countries which up to then had supported the independence cause.

The 18 November territorial elections brought the return of Ukeiwé's RPCR to power. The FLNKS, anticipating defeat at the polls, managed to disrupt voting on the day.

Afterwards New Caledonia underwent upheavals previously unknown on the sunny, palm-fringed island. Roadblocks, villages under siege, hostage-taking and armed confrontation resulted in 20 deaths, a heavy toll by the territory's standards.

On the other, the FLNKS has publicly adopted a hardline position, demanding that the 83,000 non-Kanaks who live in the territory be excluded from the self-determination ballot.

(Compass News Features)

ew Caledonia: Who's who

-Marie Tjibaou, head of the FLNKS, is the uncontested leader of the independe movement in New Caledonia. A 48-year-old former Catholic priest, Tjibaou born in the coastal town of Hienghene. He is president of the provisional govent proclaimed by the FLNKS.

• • • • •

Ukeiwé is New Caledonia's senator in Paris and president of the RPCR territogovernment resulting from the elections on 18 November last year. He was 55 years ago on Lifou island in the loyauté Islands archipelago and has always sed independence.

• • • • •

nes Lafleur is a Gaullist RPR deputy for New Caledonia in the French Parlia- and president of the local RPCR party. 53 years old, Lafleur originates from a ly deported to the penal colony and has become wealthy through interests in and mines. Although opposed to independence, he is considered one of the rates within his party.

• • • • •

Céléné Uregei is one of the hardliners of the independence movement and was rganizer of the Libyan link which marked the radicalization of the FLNKS. His nt role is as a roving ambassador for the movement throughout the South Pacigion.

Every Week

By Dr. Nabil El-Sharif

The UNRWA crisis — Why now?

UNITED NATIONS Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck announced in Vienna earlier this month that the agency needed US$ 232 million to carry on at its present level, but only US$ 165 million had been pledged by donor countries and organisations. He added that UNRWA had just three months before "drastic actions" would have to be taken.

Some "drastic actions" have already been taken, and we can only wonder what Mr Rydbeck had in mind when he said that more measures will have to be implemented to restore some vitality to the organisation that provides food, medical services and education to nearly two million Palestinian refugees in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

UNRWA has already abolished 38 posts at Vienna headquarters and deffered pay raises to 12,000 field staff to help bridge a 67-million-dollar cash gap in its 1985 budget.

The timing of the UNRWA 'crisis' should be called into question. The identity of the Palestinian people is now threatened much more than it has ever been. And we do not want to doubt the truthfulness of the agency's difficulties, but we cannot help asking the most pressing question: Why now? UNRWA has always been suffering from one kind of financial crisis or another.

In 1975, for instance, the then Commissioner General of UNRWA Sir John Rennie threatened to close its doors if help did not arrive within 10 days. Of course, UNRWA doors remained open and the crisis somehow did not linger. In 1982 the agency also announced that it was terminating all rations to most refugees. While it is true that UNRWA managed to carry out most of its threats in 1982, the popular outcry at least kept the situation from turning into a real catastrophe.

The present alleged crisis within UNRWA is not a new development, then, in the history of this agency. UNRWA, in other words, has always managed to cope with extremely difficult financial situations. Why do UNRWA officials insist, then, on portraying the present difficulties (assuming they indeed exist) as if they were unprecedented and insurmountable?

One can not but analyse this development within the overall framework of developments in our region that more aimed at bringing the Palestinian people (represented in the PLO) to the point of surrender. One might even venture to speculate that these 'other methods' of dealing with the Palestinian people were brought to the surface only when direct military methods failed to pressure the Palestinians into selling out their determination and belief in their struggle for survival.

The world public opinion (if such a thing still really exists!) is therefore called upon to shoulder its responsibility towards the Palestinian refugees in particular. This responsibility falls indeed on the shoulders of the world community at large because Israel (the victimizer of the Palestinian people) has been created by a UN resolution. The United States in particular which refuses to recognize the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people (the PLO) until today is called upon now, more than ever, to refrain from blindly supporting the aggressor and victimizer and to redirect its attention, for once, to the victims of Israel's aggression.

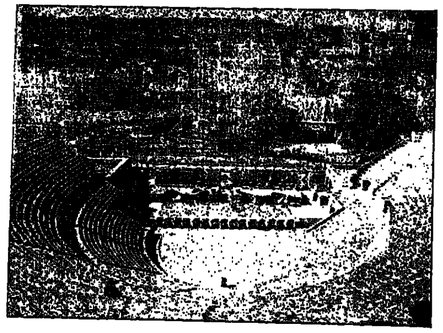
Tourist magazine makes its debut in Jordan

• Tourists in Jordan, both foreign and local, have a new source of information to draw on with the arrival in the bookstores this week of information and tourist magazine of "This is Jordan."

The magazine which is published by Sa'ed Darwish is planned as a quarterly, devoted mainly to Jordan but with some coverage of other countries. The first issue, for example, include an article on Hong Kong along with stories on Jerusalem, Mu'ta and Jerash.

The first issue has an impressive line up of contributors including line up of contributors including Minister of Industry and Trade **Jawad Al-Anani**, undesecretary at the Ministry of Information **Michael Harmarneh, Dr. Fawzi Zayadene** of the Department of Antiquities and Jerash Festival director **Mazen Armouti.**

The work of a number of photographers active in Jordan is featured throughout the magazine, including that of **Adam Woolfitt, Osman Akuz, Fakhry Milkawi** and **Maha Al-Mufatish.**



View of Amman from 'This is Jordan'

Photo: Osman Akuz

* * * * *

• Indian Ambassador **Pyare Lal Santoshi** and Mrs Santoshi hosted a dinner last Wednesday in honour of **Mr O. P. Aggarwal**, who was an attache at the Indian Embassy and Mrs Aggarwal who left Jordan on completion of their tenure in Amman. The Aggarwals who came to Amman in 1982 have now returned to New Delhi.

The couple said they were happy to have been in Jordan during the 'twilight' of Mr Aggarwal's diplomatic career, as he will be retiring from the Indian Foreign Service very shortly.

They were full of praise for the Jordanians, their hospitality and co-operation. During their stay they have had the chance to visit all the places of historical importance and they say that Jordan and its natural beauty will remain in their memory long after they return home.

And if Mr Santoshi is missing a colleague in his office, Mrs Santoshi will be missing an active lady from the Indian Women's society as Mrs Aggarwal has been assisting Mrs Santoshi in organizing her Sari shows and other activities.

* * * * *

• As a result of the expropriation of the Philadelphia Hotel by the Amman Municipality, the hotels exquisite collection of oriental paintings has found a temporary home at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

The paintings are copies of famous originals dating mainly to the eighteenth century and are all the work of a rather cryptically named artist **Patrick S.Y.** When and where he painted them also seems to be something of a mystery.

Whatever their origins, the 46 paintings are a delight to the viewer and include an elaborate and detailed view of a carpet market and a beautifully clear view of Jerusalem.

The original of one of the work is actually on sale in London at present for a mere £75,000, the reproduction is available here for rather less.

CALENDAR

Lecture

The **British Institute for History and Archaeology** at Amman presents a lecture by **Mr. Alistaire Killick** on **'Excavations at Udhruh'.**

Monday 28 January at 7:00 pm at the Institute.

Exhibitions

The **Royal Cultural Centre** presents an exhibition of silk paintings by **Ikbal Shukry Tannir.**

Continues until Sunday 27 January.

The Goethe Institute presents **'The New German Film'** an exhibition on German cinema's activity over the past fifteen years.

Tuesday 29 January until Thursday 7 February.

Play

The **Royal Cultural Centre** presents **'The Choice'** by **Hisham Yanis,** directed by **Hani Snobar.**

Continues until Wednesday 30 January

The **American Centre** presents **'Whose Life Is It Anyway'** (119 mins) starring **Richard Dreyfuss, John Cassavetes, Christine Layhi** and **Bob Balaban.**

Thursday 24 January at 7.00 pm.

'Nova, the Television Explosion', a 60 minute programme on new television technology.

Monday 28 January at 7.00 pm.

The **French Cultural Centre** presents **'Malevil,** a 1981 film by **Christian de Chalonge,** starring **Michel Serrault** and **Jacques Dutronc.**

Thursday 24 and Saturday 26 January at 7.45 pm.

Archaeology trip

The **Friends of Archaeology** are planning a trip to **Kataret Es-Samra** and **Pella** in the Jordan Valley. High clearance vehicles are recommended only if the weather is bad. Meet at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre at 8.30 am.

Friday 25 January.

• On the lecture scene Minister of Public Works **Ra'ef Nijim** has been quite busy this week with the University of Jordan topping the list of his engagements.

At the university's club last Tuesday Mr. Nijim met with university students in an open dialogue on skills, leadership and decision-making. During the meeting Mr Nijim explained that to him persistence, good performance, precision and the ability to delegate authority are among the qualities of good leadership. Mr Nijim also stressed other qualities and skills that a good leader needs such as an ability to generate confidence and his ability to treat others correctly

Dr Hani Abid Ru'man, Dean of Student Affairs at Jordan University also attended the open dialogue so the minister's good ideas will no doubt flow on to more members of the university's student body.

And maybe it will be a good idea to invite Mr Nijim for a return visit. He has just received an invitation from the Swedish Minister of Communications and Transport to visit Sweden next June to have a look at the most recent methods for building and maintaining roads and preserving old buildings, and to up the work plans made the agreement on techn operation concluded rec tween the two gover Surely he can collect so ideas from the in Swedes to share wi students at home.

Ra'ef Nijim

* * * * * * * * * * * *

And on the left...

• Members of the mass-media representing the three Arabic daily newspapers as well as representatives from Jordan Television and Radio Jordan had the luck recently to pay a two-day visit to that most magnificent touristic area in Jordan, Petra. Their visit was at the invitation of the Amra Forum Hotel administration.

The two-day visit was organized by **Abid Rahim Zaro,** travel trade and sales manager at Amra and Petra Forum Hotel and also by **Aboud Qwasmi** and **Mohammad Shleh.**

Among the members who visited Petra was **Yousef Amari,** public relation manager at Ad-Dustour newspaper who told The Star that when they arrived at the hotel they were received by General Manager **Bill Eve,** who with his own inimitable gave them an idea of the rendered by the hotel and forts made to provide eve fort for visitors to Petra.

During the members' v had the chance to see th touristic developments area, and their trip includ sit to Beida village which sidered the oldest settle have been built by the bateans.

Among the other place visited were the suitabl coloured housing units the Jordanian governor Bedouin as part of the gramme to remove the their rock dwellings inside

Night time highlight of was an excellent perform folklore dances and songs Wadi Musa club group.

Stomping the night away

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Palestinian embroidery finds a unique expression

By Najwa Kefay
Special to The Star

• Cross stitch embroidery is one of the oldest and most highly developed handcrafts of Palestine. (It was only adopted by Jordanian women after the influx of Palestinian refugees into Jordan in 1948). Interest in the revival of such embroidery has grown recently as part of efforts to preserve the Palestinian-Jordanian cultural heritage.

Efforts in this direction are encouraged officially but are mostly the outcome of personal initiatives by women who feel it is their duty to protect a cultural heritage threatened by a changing society and political upheaval. Pioneers in this field include **Widad Kawar, Leila Jiryis** and **Noha Batshon** each of whom contributes in her own special way.

But now a non-Arab resident of Jordan, artist **Elianora Bilbeisi,** is making her own unique contribution to this field. Elianora, known to friends as Lora, is married to Dr. Awni Bilbeisi and has been living in Jordan for ten years. She says "I was fascinated by the art of embroidery when I first came to Jordan." Now Elianora has taken this fascination a step further and has devised her own approach to introducing a traditional art in a very modern way.

On one of the pale pink walls of her charming home are 12 tiny pictures of Palestinian women each in the traditional dress of there home region of Palestine.

What distinguishes their dresses is that they, rather than their design being the result of hours of careful embroidery, they are, in fact, painstakingly painted by hand.

"I'm extremely patient in doing such things," says Lora, "and I'm able to paint each stitch separately. It's time consuming yet it is very satisfying for me and I enjoy every minute of it."

In addition to pursuing her love of painting traditional costumes in this very special way, Lora has also started painting the designs on fabric which she later uses to make elegant dresses, vests, blouses and caftans. She takes care to use quality fabrics and all her creations are washable and ironable so that they are practical for everyday and formal wear.

Lora Bilbeisi models her work

Lora's work with the traditional designs is just the latest addition to her wide repertoire of handcrafts. She already makes her own dresses, lampshades, curtains, vases and dried flowers and even designs her own furniture pieces.

Her efforts to help preserve traditional Palestinian-Jordanian culture are a fitting symbol of her love the country which is now her home. "I go to Austria to see my parents every year," she says, "but I'm always very glad to be back." Only son, Raed, shares her sentiments. He is now studying at university in Vienna but says he would really prefer to be here in Jordan.

* * * * *

• First it was **Fairouz Khoury** standing for election to the Fuheis Municipal council. Beaten, but unbowed she has been advising **Suhella Al Awamleh** who has nominated herself for the Salt Municipal elections, although she also does not expect to be elected.

Now the government has joined the process and appointed **Wafa' Al Majali** and **Muntaha Zureikat** to Al Rabba Municipal Council.

1985 looks set to be known as the year when Jordan's women and its municipal councils discovered each other, and we wish them all good fortune in their encounter.

* * * * *

All Things Considered

Joyce Abu Jassar

What lightening brings

ON THE evening of 14 January there was a brief rainfall with accompanying lightening. If you happened to be outdoors you may have witnessed the bright flashes. There was a series not just of flashes, but of arcs of blue-white energy that threaded across the inky dome of sky, illuminating everything as far as you could see. It was an impressive sight, not to mention a significant event.

We do from time to time hear of the destructive power of lightening, of how it strikes trees to set them ablaze, or when it occasionally hits a human being, a very rare occurance. But it surprised me very much to hear of this, in Jordan when there are several lightening storms during the winter season, then people know that there will be truffles in the spring.

Not being a botanist, I couldn't say how these two events are connected, but the one does follow the other. I have witnessed it on several occasions and older Jordanians assure me is absolutely true.

Truffles are a highly prized edible fungus and the region most famous for them is southern France. But they are a favourite dish here in Jordan when they are available. In the past they grew in abundance in the desert regions. The Bedouin would gather them, finding them from close observation of the ground, for the truffle grows underground and this causes a slight rise in the earth, a tiny hump. The Bedouin's acute eyesight served them to locate these prizes. Then they would bring their harvest to town and sell them.

This is still done when there are truffles to be had, but the oldsters say that things aren't as they used to be. There were more truffles then than there are now. Or perhaps there are more people to eat them so that they seem to be less. And they used to sell for about 200 fils per kilo but now cost JD 3 to 3 1/2 for the same amount. But then money doesn't last like it used to, or so people say. But at any cost, truffles are a treat.

The way that they are cooked here is: Wash and peel the truffles the way you would small potatoes. In a skillet, heat butter, add one chopped onion and fry until clear, then add 250 grammes ground meat and stir until browned. Add the truffles and a cup of water, cover and steam over low heat until tender, adding salt and pepper to taste.

Truffles are delicious. They have a flavour somewhere between mushrooms and the most tender steak imaginable. That is why I am looking to the sky in hopes of seeing more lightening storms, not only for the magnificent sight that the storm itself presents, a spectacle not often celebrated in literature, indeed I cannot recall any poetry dealing with the subject, but for the truffles that they bring.

In the meanwhile, apart from skygazing, this is the citrus season in Jordan when oranges, lemons, grapefruit, tangerines, mandarin oranges, and bomalehs are plentiful. Bomalehs are large fruit with the typical rough, beady skin of the citrus family. They are peeled, the dividing sections removed, and eaten as is. They have the citrus flavour, yet are neither sour, nor sweet. Be bold and try one if you haven't yet.

Intimate Starcasts

By Henry Arnold
Week commencing 24th January 1985

CAPRICORN — December 21st to January 19th

Some time during this coming week, someone who is much more knowledgeable than yourself could surprise you by taking you into their confidence. This will ultimately be of great benefit to you, and you will progress as a result, in a sphere hitherto unthought of. The indications are that you must try to be a good listener during this week. An old friend with problems in his mind will seek your advice and you should try to help them.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th

At work, an opportunity should present itself to you some time during this coming week, in which you will have extra responsibility. Do not be modest about this and accept it. Try giving just that little extra attention to your loved ones during this week, and in this way you will get their co-operation much more easily in everything you do.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th

Someone near to you could become rather jealous some time during this coming week. This person will need diplomatic handling later in the week, but all should go well, and you should have a happy time. You would be well advised not to listen to the idle chatter of a friend around mid-week. It would be much better for you to check up on the facts yourself, for although true, it is likely to be exaggerated.

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th

If you are planning a future tie-up of any kind, this would be an extremely good week to go ahead with definite arrangements. This will work out very well, and should be very advantageous. This is a very good week for you in most directions. Towards the end of the week, you could receive an unexpected gain, which could well surprise you, and you should find yourself very popular and gay.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th

Things should go surprisingly well during this coming week, and minor problems will sort themselves out quite well. Around mid-week you should be feeling a lot easier in the mind than you have been for some time past. In your working life, a chnge where business is concerned, could be an opportunity you have been waiting for, and a gift for the home should please you immensely.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th

The week in general seems full of routine odds and ends, but the end of the week should liven up enormously, and a new friendship of a lasting nature is highly likely. You will find that your intuition will be your greatest asset during this week, when you are faced with a choice between two completely different things. Do not allow yourself to be influenced by other people's opinions. Finances appear to take a turn for the better.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

The indications are that there is quite a lot of hard work ahead of you, as far as your career is concerned, and there should be an opportunity to make use of your artistic abilities with surprising results. A friend whom you have not known for a very long time may ask to borrow money during this week. It would be wise to refuse, but be very tactful about this. Things should become much more easier and more comfortable now.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

There should be more scope for your ideas around you this week, for the indications are that here is the start of a rapidly moving period for you. You could meet a member of the opposite sex, and this could be the start of a new romantic relationship, and you will be feeling much more happier than for some time past. A last minute invitation will cause you lots of rush, but this will be so successful that you will soon forget the initial upheaval.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

An old friend will be going off on a journey some time during this week, so you may find yourself feeling a little bit sad. Cheer up, for you will soon see them again. Now is the time to launch a rather ambitious plan which you may have in mind. It will turn out to be very successful and by so doing, you should please a member of the opposite sex.

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

Someone who is not really your friend could try to probe you to find out how you are doing during this week. Better for you to tell them absolutely nothing, and string them along. Where social activities are concerned, an outing which you have been looking forward to for some time, may have to be postponed, and you could find yourself feeling just a little disappointed about this, but this will be only of a temporary nature.

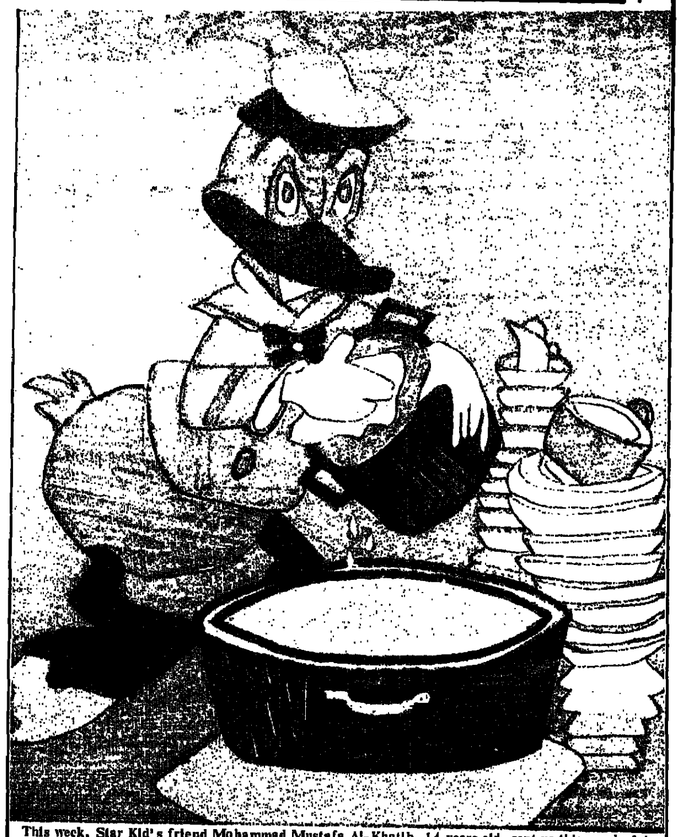
SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

This is not a very good time to assert your authority in the home, for in doing so, you will get into bad odour with a very strong-minded and stubborn person. You could find yourself making plans for a journey of a rather unexpected nature. This will take up a good deal of your spare time during the early part of the week, but there should be a very pleasant financial surprise in store for you at the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 20th

This appears to be a week which should hold many opportunities for enjoyment, but rather strangely, this will mostly be during the day-time and the evenings will be rather quiet. A domestic problem which has been the subject for quite a lot of family discussion will be solved in an easy and straightforward manner.

PICTURE CORNER



This week, Star Kid's friend Mohammad Mustafa Al-Khatib, 14 years old, sent us this wonderful picture. Mohammad is in the third preparatory class at the Amman Camp prep. B/S No. 3. Thank you Mohammad.

Grandmother's Tales

The Giant

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Star Staff Writer

MANY MANY years ago, there lived a traveller. He used to travel across the country, to see the people and the land. On his journey, one day, he arrived at a village. To his surprise, houses in the village were either totally destroyed or in dilapidated condition. The people's faces bore grief.

All the people he met seemed sad, and didn't tell him what had happened. He became suspicious and decided to find out the reality. Finally, he saw an old man at the entrance of a tent with one of his children.

The visitor inquired about the causes of the devastation of the village and the subsequent misery. The man, in a grief-stricken voice started, "Dear, we are the inhabitants of this village, look at that sea before you. It swept our villagers, see our houses, our relatives and friends died in the hurricane," he said, while tears rolled down from his eyes.

But, did it happen before, asked the visitor. Of course not, replied the old man. Then how did it happen asked the visitor. The old man replied, the Giant of this sea was angry with us. How can he be angry with you, and why? the visitor asked.

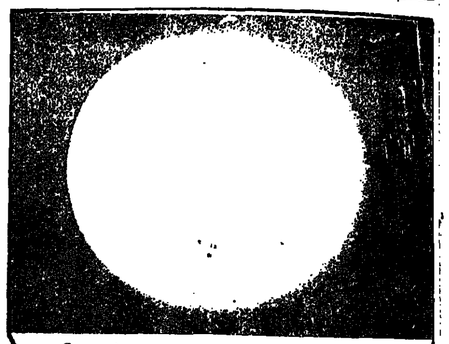
"We broke our tradition. We used to throw one of our charming girls into the sea every year for the Giant. He used to be happy and had been keeping the sea calm. We didn't throw the girl this year. That must have infuriated the Giant who has avenged our decision," he went on saying.

The visitor felt very sad and promised to protect the villagers from the havoc inflicted by the Giant. But how can you do that, the old man asked. He asked the whereabouts of the Giant but people discouraged him. The visitor insisted so eventually, the villagers agreed and the visitor, led by a priest, started towards an island in the sea where the Giant lived.

The priest took him to a nearby village where an educated priest called George, was living. They reached the village and asked for Fr George. Fr George welcomed the visitor and asked him about his mission. "My objective is to meet the Giant," said the visitor. "But, you cannot reach him if you are not well prepared for a confrontation with him," replied the priest.

... to be continued next week.

ODDITIES



Sunspots

What are sunspots?

SUNSPOTS are to be seen as little black dots, or, when clustered together, as ink-like splashes on the sun's disc. They look black simply because they are only half as hot and bright as the rest of the sun's surface. Nevertheless, sunspots are actually as dazzling as limelight and nearly three times hotter than molten metal in a Bessemer blast furnace. They are of enormous size. This earth of ours could fall into one of the larger ones and be lost as easily as a pebble thrown into a pond. Recent research proves them to be furious revolving storms or tornadoes caused by terrific internal explosions, and into which huge clouds of glowing hydrogen and other gases are often sucked at speeds of over sixty miles a second. Though we now know what they are, we still do not know how they come to be biggest and most numerous every eleven years or so. There are many close and very curious connections between sunspots and the earth. Space permits us to mention here but two. The lovely coloured lights of the aurora borealis in the northern night sky are most brilliant when the sun is most spotted every eleven years. Hot, dry summers and cool, moist ones come and go in the same eleven-year cycles.

SPOT THE CHANGES

Solutions on page 23

IN BRIEF

European teams to be absent from World hockey meet

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — European teams are unlikely to take part in an International under-18 Invitational Field Hockey Tournament scheduled here from 1-5 April, because of school examinations at that time in Europe: Malaysian Hockey Federation Secretary G Vijayananthan said last week.

Owing to the wrong timing, the tournament will comprise mostly Asian teams, he said.

India wins fourth one-day international

NAGPUR (AP) — India, playing aggressively, beat England in the fourth one-day cricket international Wednesday, cheered by a packed stadium in this central Indian city.

This was India's first victory since the past 10 one-day international matches.

India made 241 for seven with two overs to spare in the limited overs match. England earlier made 240 for seven in 50 overs.

England bowlers, often getting thrashed for boundaries, did not bowl a single maiden over.

Australia defeats Sri Lanka

SYDNEY (AP) — Australia's cricketers found the right ingredients to concoct a winning elixir at the Sydney cricket ground Wednesday night to restore part of their tattered limited-over credibility.

Australia captured a comfortable three-wicket win over Sri Lanka passing the target of 241 in 47.1 overs.

Much aligned Queenslander Kepler Wessels continued his prolific one-day run scoring efforts with a mindful 82 as Australia totalled seven for 242 in pursuit of Sri Lanka's tally of six for 240.

Australia lost early wickets and was two for 29 at one stage, but showed all the single-mindedness Indianoplis pit crew to systematically take the wheels off a workmanlike Sri Lankan attack.

Allan Bogders men, labelled one-day duffers after an upset loss to Sri Lanka in Melbourne last Saturday, were never more than a short half head behind the required run-rate.

Opener Gratme Wood departed on the second ball of the Australian innings when he lofted Asantha De Mel to Rumesh Ratnayake to notch a duck.

Partner Steve Smith was not far behind him when he was caught at the wicket off Vinodhan John for four, paving the way for Wessel's score.

'Sports for All', organizers set guidelines for the national rally

By Hamdan Al Haj
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The information media league in co-operation with the gymnastics federation and the National Paints Company has set following guidelines for the participants of the national rally "Sports for All", which will commence on 25 January in Amman.

The race will be inaugurated by the patron, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

1- It is open to individuals of sexes within the following age categories:

Men: under 20, from 20-29, from 30-39, from 40-49and over 50. Women: under 20 and over 20.

2- The race will start on Friday, 25 January at 10 am from the office of the information media league.

3- The distance will be 4.950 kilometres and the route will be around the sports city.

4- Contestants will be provided with numbers i.e., 1-50 for men over 50 years of age, 51-100 for men in age group, 40-49, 101-200 for men from 30-39, 201-400 for men from 20-29 years, and 401-700 for men under 20 years of age.

HRH Crown Prince Hassan

From 700-800 for women under 20, 800-900 for women over 20. For the handicapped, number will be affixed on the backs of their chairs.

5- No outside assistance will be permitted.

6- Contestants will have to follow the right side of the road.

7- The decision of the judges will be final.

8- All contestants are required to occupy the spectators' seat on completion of the race.

9- White and red banners will be used for the race.

10- Registration for the race will be over at 5 pm on Wednesday, 23 January.

11- A medical report or a signed personal pledge has to be provided by every contestant.

12- The period of the race will be 45 minutes.

13- Prizes: The first three finishers in each category will get a silver cup.

General referee, Mr. Nazmi al-Said. General registrar for individuals, Mr Talal Mansour. Finish recorder, Mr Ibrahim Hadad.

Recording judges: Table (1) men under 20 Sameer Janakat and Ashour Shihdeh. Table (2) men from 20-29 years, Sameer Janakat. Table (3) men from 30-39 years, Mr Odeh Rihani. Table (4) men from 40-49 years, Suhail Haddadin. Table (5) men over 50 years, Adeeb Karzon. Table (6) women under 20, Farouk Nassar. Table (7) women over 20, Fahad Abbadi.

Other judges: Nazmi al-Said and Isam Quran. Alternates: Jamila Abu Fannounah, Maryam Abu Jamous and Ameeh al-Banna.

Indoor stadium to be opened soon

AMMAN — The director of al-Hussein Youth City, Mr Isam Arida, stated that an indoor stadium will be opened shortly alongside Petra stadium to be used for the activities of table-tennis and fencing federations. It will have an area of 240 square metres.

Mr Arida during a meeting with the secretaries of the sports federations has drawn the following schedule for various activities:

Sports palace and Rum halls: Wrestling from 20-22 February, 25 September-1 October, 27-29 December, 1985.

Karate and Taekwandu: From 15-17 February, 27-30 March, 26-30 June, 1985

Judo: Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Gymnastics: From 27-28 February and on 1 March 1985.

Table Tennis: 1-10 April, 2-20 June 1985.

Sports palace: Volley ball: from 15-20 April 1985
Basketball: Saturdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Handball: Mondays and Fridays

Budd back on the track

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — Zola Budd said Wednesday she had forgotten about her much-publicised clash on the track with American idol Mary Decker at last summers olympic games and that she was looking forward to the future.

The 18-year-old South African-born runner told a press conference: The incident with Mary Decker has been taken out of proportion. She is just another runner. "I am feeling it is all in the past and that it is best to look ahead."

Budd became a British citizen 10 months ago in order to compete at the Olympics.

But during the 3,000 meters final at Los Angeles, Budd and Decker, the race favourite, were involved in a clash of legs. The American crashed out the race and Budd, who continued to run amid a storm of booing, finished seventh.

Immediately afterwards, the waif-like Budd returned to South Africa and announced she would take up running there again. Two days before she was due to compete, she agreed to postpone her comeback when advised that she faced a worldwide ban.

Budd returned to Britain last weekend to continue her international athletics career and runs her first race since the Olympics on Friday when she competes in the 1,500 meter heats at an indoor event at Cosford.

The final, for which she is expected to qualify easily, is on Saturday.

After trying out the track for the first time Wednesday, she told reporters she will appear barefoot, her preferred style.

Budd has never raced indoors before and said: On the bends it felt as if one leg was longer than the other.

In her last race in Britain in July, Budd broke the 2,000 metres world record but said she would not be seeking a world best at Cosford." I just want to get used to running indoors," she said.

Budd, dressed in a track suit and markedly more confident, said she planned to move up to 3,000 metres for this summers Grand Prix events in Europe.

She also confirmed she would be running in a road race at Phoenix, Arizona on 2 March.

West Indies win by 8 wickets

CANBERRA (AP) — Desmond Haynes blasted a tremendous 86 as the West Indians cruised to an easy eight wicket win over ACT in a limited over game at Manuka oval here Wednesday.

ACT were sent in to bat by the Windies and had notched a respectable two for 212 after 50 overs.

But with ruthless ease the Windies plundered the act bowling and reached their 213 target in just 132 minutes in the 37th over of the game.

Haynes had gone at this stage but Thelston Payne was unbeaten on 67 and Gus Logie was 22.

The West Indians had lost only Richie Richardson for 22 and Haynes in reaching the target.

It was an anti-climax after the festival atmosphere and packed Manuka ground Tuesday when the Prime Minister's XI fell just 15 short of the Windies for a win.

Some 15,807 saw that encounter and Manukas birch and popular-lined pleasant arena seemed bare Wednesday.

Officials say 1290 people paid to get in but it seemed to be the case of after the Lord Mayor's banquet.

But West Indian manager Wes Hall defended fixtures of this nature even if they did appear a little one-sided.

"With our top engagements throughout the tour there are some of our side who wouldn't get a bat or a ball in their hands too often," said Hall.

"And it gives young players in Australia the chance to play against good company and do something for themselves for the times ahead," he added.

Fun And Fitness

To drink or not to drink?

"SIT DOWN, have a cup of coffee and relax."

How often have you heard that statement? Yet, the caffeine in coffee doesn't offer a calming effect.

It actually keeps you perking by stimulating your adrenalin. This is not necessarily beneficial. Along with the pick-up you feel, your blood pressure, blood sugar, and triglycerides increase. Caffeine also raises the possibility of heart palpitations and skipped beats. Perhaps you are more familiar with the well-known symptoms of insomnia, nervousness, and headaches.

If you are in the habit of having coffee the first thing in the morning, you may discover a headache when you try to eliminate it. You're right! This is one of the withdrawal symptoms. Caffeine causes blood vessels to constrict. The blood vessels may dilate without the coffee, and this leads to a headache.

The typical American has 6 to 12 cups of coffee per day. This would be equivalent to 600 to 1200 mg. of caffeine. Consuming more than 300 mg per day is considered excessive, and can lead to many of the negative effects previously listed.

Caffeine is found in many products. The following list may help you monitor your consumption:

	mg caffein/ serving
Coffee (6 oz.)	
brewed	100
instant	60
Tea (6 oz.)	50
Cola drinks (12 oz.)	50
Chocolate (1 oz.)	20

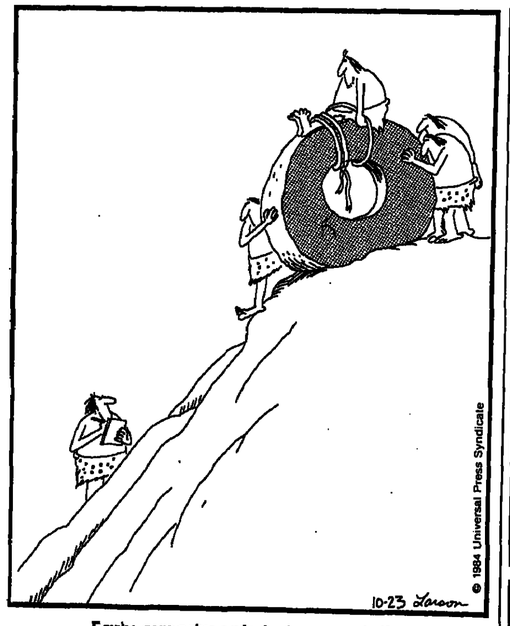
Read the labels of products you suspect to contain caffeine. Many non-cola drinks may have as much as cola drinks. Over the counter drugs often list caffeine. Some common sinus medications have as much as 60 mg. per pill. Decaffeinated beverages usually are reduced to 5 mg. of caffeine per serving. I would recommend limiting your intake to 250 mg. per day from all sources.

In order to reduce your caffeine consumption, you must first become aware of your habit. Analyze when you drink coffee: At meals, at your desk, on break, in the morning, etc. Set a plan of action for that problem time or place. You may sit in a different spot, avoid a certain place, take a brisk walk, or substitute a different type of beverage.

Here are a few suggestions for alternative beverages:

In the market, you may purchase decaffeinated coffee, either perked or instant. There also are decaffeinated teas and colas available. Herbal teas such as chamomile, or peppermint are good substitutes. These make a refreshing iced tea, too.

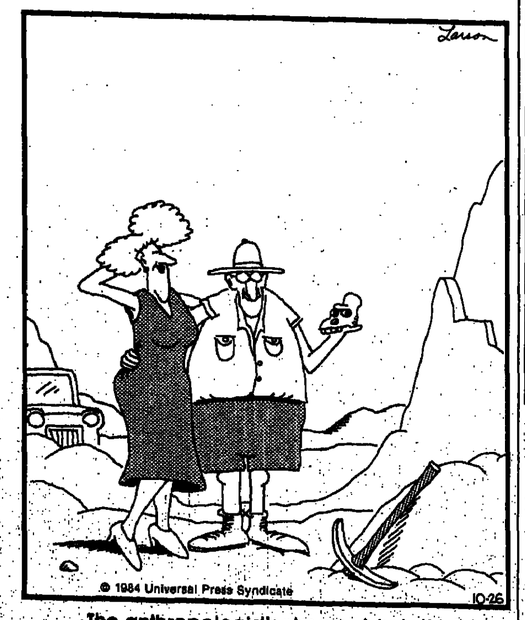
(US Sports Academy)



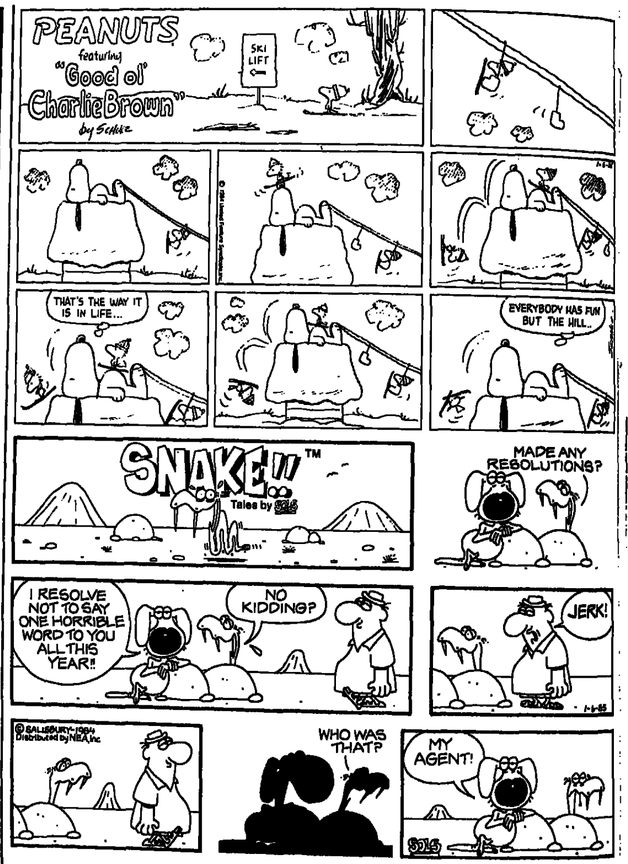
Early experiments in transportation

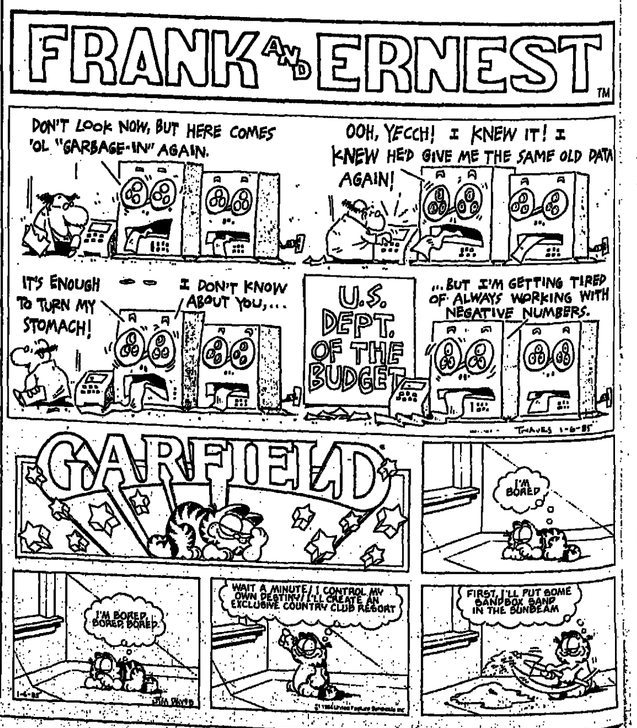
The Far Side

By GARY LARSON



The anthropologist's dream: A beautiful woman in one hand, the fossilized skull of a *Homo habilus* in the other.





BRIDGE by Terence Reese

North
♠ Q 10 8 4
♡ —
♢ A K 5 3
♣ A K 10 9 4

West
♠ 9
♡ J 7 6 2
♢ 10 4
♣ 7

East
♠ A K 5
♡ 10 9 5 4
♢ J 7 2
♣ Q 5 3

South
♠ J 7 3 2
♡ Q 10 8 3
♢ Q 9 6
♣ 6 2

Dealer South: Love all

South opens One Club and West overcalls with Four Spades. As North, what would you do? I think I would be inclined to double, though this does not turn out well. North leads the queen of diamonds, probably, and West, who of course will not cover, can establish a diamond trick for a heart discard.

When two leading teams met in the Vanderbilt Cup, both North players bid 4NT over Four Spades. Presumably this was a kind of take — out double. South bid Five Clubs and all passed.

West at one table led the ace of spades. It is true that this may set up a trick for the king, but there are risks in the heart lead also. When the ace of spades holds the first trick, how should West continue?

Jim Chew cleverly led a low heart. The declarer, Eddie Kantar, naturally feared a singleton and went up with the ace of hearts. The queen of diamonds held the next trick, and now, if the trumps had been 2-1, South would have been able to establish a diamond winner for a heart discard. As the cards lay, South went one down.

At the other table West began with the king of hearts. This was not so successful. South drew trumps and was able to enter dummy with the jack of hearts for a diamond finesse.

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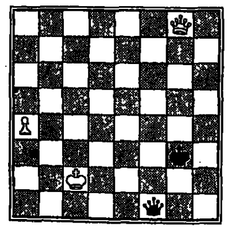


Yusupov v Malanyuk, USSR championship, 1983. Black is in check; where should his king go? At first glance it doesn't look a major decision, but White's pawn is poised for a run up the board if the queens are exchanged. Black, a master, blundered and chose the wrong square. Can you do better?

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

TARGET

The Word Game

V	E	G
L	O	V
I	R	N

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only.

Each word must contain the large letter, and there must be at least two nine-letter words in the list. No plurals; no foreign words; no proper names. TODAY'S TARGET: 34 words, good; 41 words, very good; 51 words, excellent.

SOLUTIONS

Crossword

CRYPTIC SOLUTION

ACROSS. — 4. Bananas. 9. Simple-ton. 13. Tri-U-d. 14. Barks. 16. Re-lia-nt. 18. Bur-nin-g. 17. Tam-a. 19. Normal(). 20. R-a-O-el. 22. Resume. 23. Struck. 25. Con-test. 27. Dyanide. 30. Madder. 31. Go-ottan. 34. R-ealed. 36. Larch. 38. Num-an. 37. Ten-ayre. 39. Cracker. 41. Truck. 42. Do-ses. 43. The-O-rises. 44. Per-war-d.

DOWN. — 1. Ra-o-l-er(rev). 2. Man-drill. 3. Dabbs-rose. 4. First name. 5. So-Art-an. 6. Wellington. 7. Nol-a(rev). 10. Stable. 11. Pro-test. 12. At-tach. 19. Round up. 21. Showder. 24. Dying to know. 26. Tie the knot. 28. Committed. 29. Stand-up. 30. Mal-l-ev-e. 32. Runs down. 33. D-ra-ad's. 34. Char-ile. 35. Un-sure. 40. Ac-h-e.

EASY SOLUTION

ACROSS. — 6. Contain. 9. Enclosing. 13. Tepee. 14. Tense. 15. Thimble. 16. Trestle. 17. Tempo. 18. Asset. 20. Empty. 22. Second. 26. Linger. 26. Staring. 27. Plunder. 30. Grease. 31. Collie. 32. Match. 35. Minim. 36. Huron. 37. Neglect. 39. Resolve. 41. Chest. 42. Zebra. 43. Quintered. 44. Evening.

DOWN. — 1. Couple. 2. Stretchy. 3. Distressing. 4. Undermine. 5. Station. 6. Aspiration. 7. Knob. 10. Statue. 11. Protest. 12. Tester. 19. Suggest. 21. Pattern. 24. Alternative. 25. Resembling. 28. Corrected. 29. Blunder. 30. Camera. 33. Magazine. 33. Hit man. 34. Cheered. 38. Ebbing. 40. Soon.

Chess

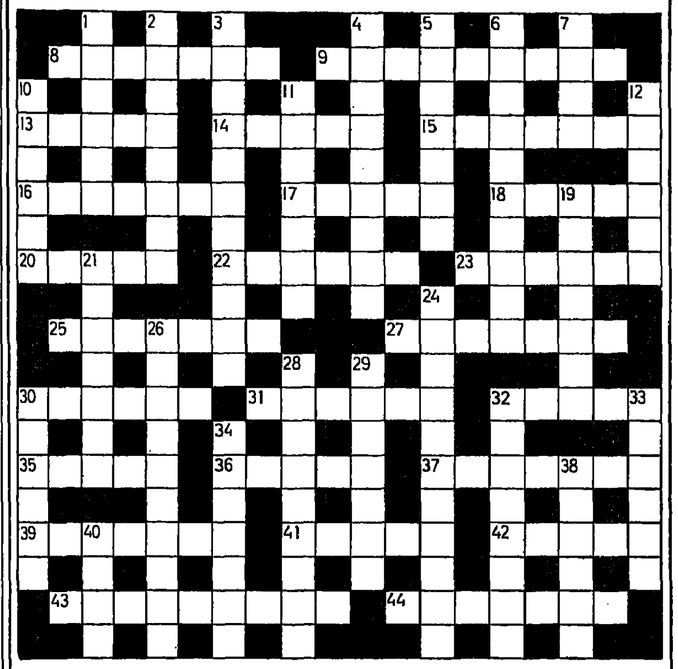
K—B5(b.7) loses to 2 Q—B7 ch; while the game went 1...K—R5? 2 Q—Q8 ch, resigns since White will swap queens by 3 Q—Q3 ch or 3 Q—Q1 ch. IF 1...K—R7, 2 Q—R7 ch and White will check his way to a queen swap, but 1...K—R6 is not so easy (2Q—R7 ch, K—K15) and was Black's only reasonable chance.

Target

Enrol evolving giro glove glover goer gone gore govern groin grove grovel ignore involve iron legion leno lingo lion loin loir lone loner long longe lore lorn love lover loving neroli noil novel ogive ogle ogre oiler olive oriel oven over oving region REVOLVING roil role rove roving viol voile vole.

THE STAR TWO-WAY TEASER

Use the same diagram for either the Cryptic or the Easy puzzle.



CRYPTIC PUZZLE

ACROSS

8 Fruit-mad (7)
9 It's easy, not complicated, you dope! (5)
13 Bothered, point the dirt out outside (8)
14 Snaps the ships (5)
15 Counting on splitting the rent with Ali, anyhow (7)
16 Very keen to have the inn prepare packed grub to take out (7)
17 Anti-revolution, a Russian (5)
18 Left after her, as usual (5)
20 Do very well to have the fish multiply by a hundred in it (5)
22 Go on telling you what's already happened (6)
23 Had been out when one knocked (5)
25 Cheat at the exam and the competition (7)
27 Any dice playing would be very dangerous (7)
30 A comparatively wild rose (6)
31 Thread a number, not to embroider with (6)
32 Paid off right at the beginning, which is quick (5)
35 The tree Charles points out is gnarled (5)
36 Sing to an earthling (5)
37 Not worried, convinced there will be a cut (7)
39 As biscuits go, is it a really good one? (7)
41 Anything to do with a vehicle (5)
42 The same again the man knocked back, having had a draught (5)
43 Speculates about the zero wage increases (9)
44 Ahead in the car battle (7)

DOWN

1 Standing back, I gently thrust in the sword (8)
2 The chap gets material on an exotic animal (8)
3 Flower with edible leaves? (7-4)
4 Adam? (5, 4)
5 The man has a sleep standing up outside: he's tough (7)
6 In general, one of a pair (10)
7 A man stood her up (4)
10 Not rocking horses! (5)
11 For the experiment, beef (7)
12 Set upon the food at first (6)
19 Leading in the fight, you gather (5, 2)
21 To get food, he had to mingle with the crowd (7)
24 Committing suicide from curiosity about the hereafter? (5, 2, 4)
26 Get married and make it fast (3, 3, 4)
28 Given to one to be put away (9)
29 Champion fight description (5-2)
30 From spite, one has the cold meat thrown out (8)
32 Allows to deteriorate, then says it's no good (4, 4)
33 Is afraid father's in possession of the note (8)
34 Help to deceive a fool (7)
35 Lacking in confidence? That's doubtful (8)
40 Really want the hard-to-catch dab (4)

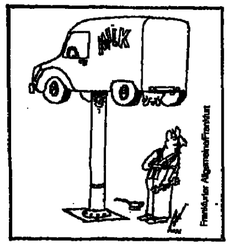
EASY PUZZLE

ACROSS

3 Hold (7)
8 Putting inside (9)
13 Red Indian shelter (5)
14 Brief and concise (5)
15 Sewing aid (7)
16 Sugary syrup (7)
17 Musical time (5)
18 Valuable possession (5)
20 Void (5)
22 Give backing to (6)
23 Tarry (6)
26 Gazing fixedly (7)
27 Booby (7)
30 Fold (6)
31 Dog (6)
33 Contest (6)
35 Musical note (5)
36 Great Lake (5)
37 Disregard (7)
38 Determine (7)
41 Large box (5)
42 Striped animal (5)
43 Parried (9)
44 Close of day (7)

DOWN

1 Pair (6)
2 Elastic (8)
3 Upsetting (11)
4 Sap (9)
5 Joy (7)
6 Ambition (10)
7 Rounded handle (4)
10 Sculpted figure (6)
11 Shield (7)
12 Rock unsteadily (6)
16 Propose (7)
21 Design (7)
24 Option (11)
26 Looking like (10)
28 Put right (9)
29 Gross error (7)
30 Photographic device (6)
32 Periodical (8)
33 Hired killer (3, 3)
34 Applauded vocally (7)
38 Plowing back (6)
40 Before long (4)

Solutions

1. Flying dinosaur has smaller wing
2. There is more snow on mountain peak beneath it
3. Man on extreme left wears rope belt round waist
4. Shoulder strap of his women's dress has vanished
5. Pub sign is wider
6. Blade of stone axe carried by man entering pub is on other side of handle
7. Cave entrance has flatter top
8. Tethering rope of dinosaur pub is tied higher up post
9. Mammoth's tusk curves opposite way
10. Tree has extra branch